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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Church abuse: Lawyers for hundreds of alleged victims of sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests estimate that their clients' claims could cost the Archdiocese of Los Angeles more than \$1.5 billion, the largest amount ever paid out by a diocese, according to court documents.

Attorney Raymond P. Boucher said the amount is based on verdicts and settlements in clergy abuse cases nationwide and is consistent with secret estimates of local claims done by a Los Angeles judge earlier this year, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

Economic indicator: After taking a rest in June, the nation's consumers were full of energy last month, boosting their spending by 0.8 percent, a hopeful sign the economy may be emerging from a summer funk.

The over-the-month increase in consumer spending, reported by the Commerce Department on Monday, marked a turnaround from the 0.2 percent decline registered in June, when high energy prices and a sluggish job market made for more cautious buyers.

Elizabeth Smart kidnapping: The two people evaluating the man charged with kidnapping Elizabeth Smart have never spoken with him, and the judge in the case has said they disagree on nearly every aspect of his psychology.

A hearing to determine whether Brian David Mitchell is competent to stand trial was scheduled to start Tuesday and last three days, but it could take much longer to determine whether Mitchell is competent, or able to aid in his defense. The two court-appointed experts "are not close to being in agreement," Judge Judith Atherton has said in Salt Lake City.



Mitchell

World

U.N. deadline for Sudan: Sudan, awaiting word on whether it will be sanctioned by the international community, hopes for a "reasonable decision" from the U.N. Security Council, the foreign minister said Monday, the U.N.-imposed deadline for quelling violence in its western Darfur province.



Pacific flooding: Residents waded through flood waters that continue to inundate the low-lying town of Calumpit, Philippines, north of Manila on Monday. The floods, brought about by heavy monsoon rains last week, affected about 1.3 million people in metropolitan Manila and the main Philippine island of Luzon, with the death toll climbing to at least 35.

Mustafa Osman Ismail's remarks came as a U.S. State Department official made a first-hand American assessment of conditions for thousands of people displaced by fighting between Sudanese and rebel forces and by attacks from Arab militiamen known as Janjaweed.

The visit by Constance Berry Newman, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, follows tours by U.N. teams who report Tuesday to Secretary-General Kofi Annan on whether the government is doing all it can to rein in the Janjaweed.

Charges in attempted coup: Two South Africans acquitted by a Zimbabwe court of weapons charges related to an alleged coup plot in Equatorial Guinea were charged Monday with violating their country's anti-mercenary laws.

Separately, the Justice Ministry said Monday South Africa is considering a request by Equatorial Guinea to question Mark Thatcher, son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, about his alleged involvement in the foiled coup plot in the oil-rich west African nation.

A total of 88 men are now in custody in South Africa, Equatorial Guinea and Zimbabwe in connection with the plot allegedly foiled in March.

Bangladesh protest: A general strike to protest a recent grenade attack that killed

20 people at an opposition political rally brought Bangladesh to a near standstill Monday.

Shops and schools were closed and most traffic halted across the country during the dawn-to-dusk strike called by opposition Awami League activists. It was the fourth strike in a week.

War on terrorism

Afghan torture hearing: A hearing for three Americans charged with torturing Afghans on a private anti-terror mission was postponed on Monday for 10 days at the defendants' request after they brought in American lawyers.

Jonathan Idema, Edward Caraballo and Brent Bennett, who are also charged with kidnapping and holding Afghans in a makeshift jail, were due in court Monday for what had been expected to be the decisive hearing.

Pakistan defends terror record: Pakistan on Monday claimed it had the best record in the international war on terrorism, and rejected allegations that Taliban rebels were finding sanctuary on its soil.

"Our effort has been second to none in terms of results. Nobody's record matches ours," Foreign Ministry spokesman Masood Khan told a news conference.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

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Typhoon Chaba soaks Sasebo, Iwakuni

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Typhoon Chaba made an elbow-swinging ramble through Sasebo on Monday with winds whipping and howling at 58 mph with gusts up to 78 mph as it dumped heavy rain on this southern Japan base.

The storm moved beyond Sasebo by about 3:30 p.m., headed to the northeast and rapidly lost some of its punch. The typhoon's center passed about five miles northwest of Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station, leaving more than five inches of rain in its wake by 8 p.m.

Of the two bases, Sasebo took the most intense battering. Iwakuni forecasters measured sustained winds of just 14 mph, with a gust or two measured at 58 mph, said Sgt. Aaron States, the forecaster on duty Monday night at Iwakuni's weather office.

Both bases reported no serious structural damage and no personal injuries, according to spokesmen for the Iwakuni and Sasebo installations. Elsewhere, however, Chaba plowed into broad areas of southern Japan, killing at least five people and injuring 73, The Associated Press reported. Torrential rains and strong winds toppled trees and telephone poles and shoved a Vietnamese cargo ship aground.

So far, 123 homes across southern Japan were flooded, the news service reported. The National Police Agency is saying. In addition, 176,500 households were without



PHOTOS BY GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

Typhoon Chaba made one of Sasebo Naval Base's main drags, California Drive, deserted as it raged through town. The typhoon was at its worst in the early afternoon with wind velocity of about 58 mph with gusts up to 78 mph.

power throughout Japan's southernmost main island of Kyushu, about 560 miles southwest of Tokyo, AP reported.

The National Police Agency said at least 73 people were injured and two were missing. The storm paralyzed transportation systems in the Kyushu region, Kyodo News reported Monday evening. Air, sea and land traffic were disrupted in Kyushu, with flight cancellations and delays expected to continue throughout Monday, the Japanese news service reported.

But the storm appeared to have pulled its punches around the U.S. bases. The typhoon made landfall early Monday morning just west of Kagoshima; its center never was any closer to Sasebo than at 2 p.m., when it was about 62 miles east-southeast of the naval base.

"As far as damages, Iwakuni is a base that is very safe simply because of its location," States said. "It's a very well-protected air station."

Navy forecasters said they were relieved that Chaba made landfall in southeastern Kyushu. "Sasebo was truly spared," said Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron Kawczk, forecaster for the Naval Pacific Meteorology and Oceanography Detachment in Sasebo.

"This could have been entirely different had this typhoon come toward us from the west rather than east. From the west, we quite possibly would've seen sustained winds near 100 mph, with gusts even higher, up to 115 or more.

"Even so, this was a very large typhoon,

and normally they aren't this strong when they are this high — along the same latitude as Sasebo," Kawczk explained. "And normally, the wind velocity is just not this intense."

But both bases did receive thorough soakings. States said more than five inches of rain had fallen in Iwakuni by 8 p.m. Monday; Sasebo received 2.09 inches.

About 2:30 p.m., the clouds suddenly opened and intensely bright sunlight scanned Sasebo even though the high wind continued. "It was the point when the last spiral of rain in the typhoon had passed us," Kawczk said. Swirling spirals of rain and winds moving at a high velocity surround the center, or eye, of a typhoon.

Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness All Clear took effect early Monday evening in Sasebo.

Seaman Recruit Derrick White was in the Tomingua Building (base headquarters) during the typhoon. "I actually did get a little scared," he said walking down as sidewalk as conditions cleared. "I was in there and the windows started shaking and all, and that was a little scary."

According to the Joint Typhoon Warning Center in Hawaii, Chaba should recurve and accelerate northeast to a position north-northeast of Hokkaido by Wednesday morning. The typhoon should weaken rapidly, say forecasters, due in part to interaction with land and cooler water temperatures.

Sharon Shaw Johnson contributed to this report.

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Congress to fund Guam water plant

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

The Navy's water woes on Guam official by are over — at least for now.

Scheduled water outages for Navy housing areas and Santa Rita and Agat villages have been canceled and a boil-water notice lifted, Navy officials announced Monday.

"Navy water production and reserve capacity have significantly improved," Navy officials said in a news release Monday.

The boil-water notice and 8 p.m.-6 a.m. water outage took effect for about 922 Navy housing units almost a week ago. Sediment stirred up by Typhoon Chaba, which skirted Guam Aug. 22, plus weeks of rain prevented the aging Navy Water Treatment Plant from adequately filtering and producing water, forcing water outages and low water pressure.

For a short period, the Navy also shut off water to Guam Waterworks Authority customers, affecting villages such as Santa Rita and Agat.

Navy officials still encourage housing residents to continue to conserve water by turning off the tap when not in use and avoiding washing driveways or vehicles. They also warned that inclement weather or a significant increase in water use could cause another shortage. Guam Waterworks Authority customers are asked to contact GWA with any concerns, or to call 646-4211 or 647-7836 to report water leaks.

Navy officials said though water production may be touch-and-go for a while if rainy weather continues in Guam, they believe a long-term solution to the island's water problem may have been found. Officials learned last week that Congress has approved \$20 million to upgrade the Navy's Guam water treatment plant, which they say should make water production consistent even throughout Guam's infamous storms.

The current plant "was built during World War II," said Lt. Arven Consual, spokeswoman for Commander Naval Forces Marianas. "Every time there's too much rain, the filters get clogged and we have this same cycle over and over again."

The water treatment upgrade is scheduled to begin in 2005 and finish the following year. The project will improve the plant's ability to filter and clean water during and after heavy rains, and increase the plant's ability to produce water consistently, Navy officials said.

The upgrade includes installing multiple chlorinating systems, Consual said. "If one filter goes down, we'll have another readily available."

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@stpsrives.com



From the top floor of the old Marine Barracks along Sasebo Naval Base's California Drive, the wind from Typhoon Chaba whips the branches of palm trees next to the American Forces Network building Monday afternoon. The base got 2.09 inches of rain.

Guam gas prices slowly decrease from record high

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

Gas prices at Guam military installations slowly are working their way back down from the record highs reached earlier this summer, officials said Monday.

According to the Army and Air Force Exchange Services headquarters in Okinawa, the price of fuel at base pumps will drop an average of three cents per gallon when the new prices take effect

Wednesday.

Unleaded fuel will drop from \$1.98 to \$1.95 per gallon; premium unleaded will drop from \$2.17 to \$2.14 per gallon.

Fuel prices on Guam are calculated and adjusted monthly.

"These prices were calculated using the AAFES overseas gas pricing formula, which takes the Department of Energy average price of gasoline in the continental United States and adds Guam's local dispensing costs,"

according to an AAFES statement released Monday.

The prices are based on the Department of Energy's price figures for the previous four-day period.

According to an attendant at a Shell service station in Barrigada, on Monday posted prices were \$2.46 per gallon for regular unleaded and \$2.56 for premium unleaded.

Stateside prices mostly have been stable in recent weeks,

after dropping about 20 cents per gallon from mid-summer highs, which saw average prices shoot well above the \$2 threshold.

According to the Lundberg Survey, a national tracking service that releases bimonthly statistics, the combined national average for 24 grades of gasoline on Aug. 29 was \$1.91 per gallon. The survey gathers price information from 7,000 gas stations across the United States.

The average price of regular, self-serve unleaded across the United States was \$1.88; premium was \$2.07.

With crude oil prices also retreating from record highs — and with the Labor Day end to the traditional summer travel season — gas prices should continue to decline, the Lundberg Survey predicted.

E-mail Joseph Giordono at: giordono@stpsrives.com

Protesters brave rain outside Camp Zama

Event sparked by reports on possible relocation of I Corps headquarters

BY JULIANA GITTNER
Stars and Stripes

Between 120 and 200 people from two Japanese organizations marched to Camp Zama, Japan, on Sunday in a drizzling rain to protest unconfirmed Japanese media reports that a stateside U.S. Army command is to be moved to the installation.

A second protest was canceled due to worsening rains later in the day, said Sagami City spokesman Yasushi Senba.

The protesters, from Kanagawa Central Joint Struggle Committee and Kanagawa Peace Movement Center, delivered a letter to officials at Camp Zama asking the U.S. Army not to move the I Corps headquarters from Fort Lewis, Wash., to Camp Zama.

For months, local newspapers have reported a number of scenarios for troop movements in Japan, including bringing the headquarters element of I Corps to Zama.

I Corps is a contingency force made up of active-duty, reserve and National Guard units from across the United States.

Army and Defense Department officials have said that no plans are in place to move any units in Japan. Officials previously said that U.S. and Japanese lead-

ers always are evaluating force postures in the country and that no decisions have been made.

"We're always encouraged when people of a free nation exercise their right to free speech and their right to assemble peacefully," Maj. John Amberg, a U.S. Army Japan spokesman, said Monday.

He said he did not know whether Army leaders had received a letter from protesters Sunday.

Questions about troop strength have grown since President Bush announced plans in July to withdraw up to 70,000 overseas troops, mostly from Europe and South Korea. Bush's announcement made no mention of Japan, where about 58,000 U.S. troops are based.

On Sunday, the protesters marched from Sobudai 1 Chome Park shortly after 2:30 p.m., arriving at Zama's main gate at 3:15 p.m., Senba said.

A protest walk from Zama to the JR Sobudai-shita station was canceled.

The protest was the first in the Zama area sparked by the media reports of possible troop movements. There were no arrests or incidents.

Sagami City officials said 120 people took part, while local police estimated participation at 190 and organizers at 200.

Staff writer Norio Murto contributed to this report.
E-mail Juliana Gittner at: gittnerj@pstrps.osd.mil



MATTHIAS CHIROUX/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Japanese protesters march together Sunday from Sobudai Main Train Station to Camp Zama's Main Gate. The demonstration was in opposition to unconfirmed Japanese media reports about possible Army troop movement plans to Camp Zama.

Massage chairs win it for Yokosuka's housing

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Some of Yokosuka's bachelor sailors found a little something in their quarters this year to help them relieve tension — something soft and reclining, that can be turned on at will: thirteen electric massage chairs, at a cost of \$2,200 each.

The chairs, as well as new Internet cafes and continental breakfasts for transient sailors of all ranks, helped Yokosuka for the second time in a row win the Navy's Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt Award for excellent base bachelor housing.

The award, named for the Navy's youngest Chief of Naval Operations, who died four years ago, means that the Yokosuka bachelor housing — from the serene house for visiting admirals, complete with private koi pond, to the barracks where enlisted sailors sleep two to a room — scored five stars, on a scale of one to five.

"There's a checklist" inspectors use, said Lt. Barbara Gary, base supply officer. "But I think the main thing was the outstanding customer service we provide. Everybody just provides outstanding customer service."

This was the second consecutive time Yokosuka has scored so highly. Before that, when Gary arrived on the base more than two years ago and the BOH carpet was being replaced with marble flooring, the bachelor housing, al-

most all of it built in the 1980s, got four stars.

Yokosuka isn't the only Pacific naval base to do as well. Atsugi Naval Air Facility, in February, Misawa Air Base, in July, and Chinhae Naval Base in Korea, in April, also earned five stars and a Zumwalt award. Lito Galgana, bachelor housing manager, said Sasebo Naval Base got one, too.

"They copied from us," Galgana joked. "They took pictures of our massage chairs. Now everybody has massage chairs."

It's unclear how many other bachelor housing facilities Navy-wide also earned the award, chairs or no chairs. All will be revealed at a conference in Denver in January, when all the winners are recognized. Galgana said 120 Navy bases have bachelor quarters but only half of them were able to compete for the five-star rating.

Two civilians who work for the Joint Interoperability Test Command out of Fort Huachuca, Ariz., and who were assigned for a few weeks to Yokosuka, had a more measured view. Jessica Korne and Mark Jamison travel to facilities all over for the armed services.

"They've stayed in bachelor quarters on Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu.

"The Air Force has the nicest facilities," Jamison said. "Korne nodded. "I was in heaven," she said.

E-mail Nancy Montgomery at: montgomeryn@pstrps.osd.mil

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England hearing

FORT BRAGG, N.C. — A soldier already convicted in the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal testified Monday that fellow Army reservist Pfc. Lynndie England was a willing participant in creating the "human pyramid" of naked Iraqi detainees shown in infamous photographs from Iraq.

Pvt. Jeremy C. Sivits testified at a hearing in England's case that he helped escort one detainee into the Baghdad prison one night in December 2003. He said a sergeant who was in charge ordered England and another soldier to stop "stomping on the fingers and toes" of a detainee.

After that sergeant left, Sivits testified, he watched as Spc. Charles Graner Jr. and others stacked seven naked detainees, who had bags over their heads, in the human pyramid and photographed them.

The photos included shots of England, 21, smiling and pointing at one detainee's genitals and posing behind the pyramid.

"Corporal Graner seemed like he was enjoying it," said Sivits, of the Maryland-based 372nd Military Police Company. He testified that England was "having a good time."

Sivits pleaded guilty in the scandal and is serving a year in prison. He testified by telephone Monday from the brig at Camp Lejeune.

England is one of seven members of the 372nd Military Police in the scandal. Graner has been portrayed as the group's ringleader.

The hearing, which began earlier this month, is to determine whether England, a 19-year-old clerk from Fort Ashby, W.Va., should face a court-martial on 13 counts of abusing detainees and six counts stemming from possession of sex toys for explicit purposes involving detainees. If convicted, she could get up to 38 years in prison.

Treason court-martial

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — A court-martial began Monday of a National Guardsman accused of passing military information to undercover agents he thought were al-Qaida members.

Spc. Ryan Anderson, 27, could get up to 30 years in prison without parole if convicted.

Anderson, a Muslim convert, pleaded innocent Aug. 9 to five counts of trying to provide al-Qaida terrorist network with information about U.S. troop strength and tactics, and methods for killing American soldiers.

Capt. Jay Stephenson, a spokesman for the military prosecutors, said the charges against Anderson amount to attempted treason. "We're at war now," Stephenson said Monday. "This is a big thing. This is a very serious and grievous offense."

Undercover investigators met with Anderson at a parking lot near the Space Needle in Seattle, where an hour-long discussion was secretly recorded on Feb. 9, just days before Anderson was to leave for Iraq with his unit, the Washington National Guard's 81st Armored Brigade.

On the video, Anderson offers sketches and information about weaknesses in the MIA Abrams, the Army's primary battle tank, authorities said. He was arrested at Fort Lewis three days after the meeting.

From The Associated Press

Al-Sadr urges militia to stop fighting

BY TODD PITMAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Rebel Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr called for his followers across Iraq to end fighting against U.S. and Iraqi forces and is planning to join the political process in the coming days, an al-Sadr aide said Monday.

Meanwhile, Iraqi oil exports came to a halt after a rash of insurgent attacks on the country's petroleum infrastructure, the country's main source of income, senior oil company officials and the governor of the southern province of Basra said.

Nevertheless, oil prices fell as traders continued a selloff amid easing fears that disruptions in Iraq, Russia or Venezuela could cause a supply squeeze.

The announcement by al-Sadr came as his aides were trying to negotiate an end to fighting in the Baghdad slum of Sadr City and in the southern city of Basra, where clashes have continued even after a peace deal was reached in Najaf, the holy city where al-Sadr militiamen battled U.S. and Iraqi forces for three weeks.

Al-Sadr also called for U.S. and Iraqi forces to withdraw from the center of Iraqi cities, Sheikh Ali Smeisni said The Associated Press. However, that did not appear to be a condition for the unilateral cease-fire.

"I call on the interim Iraqi government to have patience ... and to pull back the American and Iraqi forces from the center of Iraqi cities," Smeisni said, speaking on behalf of al-Sadr. "At the same time I call on the forces of the Mahdi Army (militia) to ... stop firing until the announcement of the political program adopted by the Sadrist movement."

When asked if the cease-fire would take effect immediately, he said, "I hope so."

The announcement could provide a major boost to the government of interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi. Al-Sadr has fiercely opposed the continued U.S. presence in Iraq and



A worker does routine maintenance on an oil pipeline near Basra, Iraq, on Monday. According to a senior oil official, oil exports from southern Iraq, which account for nearly 90 percent of total exports, have ground to a complete halt because of insurgent attacks on pipelines.

has denounced Allawi's government as dependent on the Americans — but if he decides to join politics, it would suggest al-Sadr's acceptance of the U.S.-based political process due to lead to elections in January.

Allawi has also demanded al-Sadr disband

his Mahdi Army militia, but the aides did not say the cleric was considering doing so. The militia has emerged intact from the weeks of fighting with U.S. forces, and al-Sadr has gained popularity among some sectors of Shiites, particularly the poor.

"This latest initiative shows that we want stability and security in this country by ending all confrontation in all parts of Iraq," said Sheikh Raed al-Khadami, al-Sadr's spokesman in Baghdad. "Al-Sadr's office in Najaf will call within the next two days to join the political process."

Al-Sadr visited the Imam Ali Shrine in the city of Najaf for the first time since his militia left the holy site on Friday after weeks of using it as a stronghold and refuge during the fighting with the Americans.

Al-Sadr asked religious authorities for permission to enter the shrine and made a brief visit on Monday, according to the office of Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's top Shiite cleric.

Uprisings by al-Sadr's fighters this month and in April increased the security problems faced by Allawi's government, on top of the Sunni Muslim-led insurgency that has plagued Iraq since the fall of Saddam Hussein more than a year ago.

A roadside bomb hit the U.S. military convoy on a road near the northern city of Mosul on Sunday, killing one American soldier and wounding two others, the Army said Monday.

Oil exports, which have been falling for days because of a string of insurgent attacks, came to a complete stop from southern pipelines, which account for 90 percent of Iraq's exports, after an explosion Sunday.

Two senior officials of the South Oil Co., speaking Monday on the condition of anonymity, said the southern lines were not likely to resume operations for at least a week. Iraq's other export avenue, a northern pipeline to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, also carried no oil Monday, according to an oil official in Ceyhan.

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Hostages beg for repeal of head scarves ban

France refuses demands of militants, holding 2 French journalists in Iraq

BY ELAINE GANLEY

The Associated Press Writer
PARIS — A French journalist being held hostage along with a colleague in Iraq called on French President Jacques Chirac to give in to militants' demand to rescind a headscarf ban to save their lives, according to a video shown late Monday on the Al-Jazeera television station.

The video was broadcast hours after France insisted it would go ahead with the ban on Muslim head scarves in schools, standing firm against scrapping the law just hours before a deadline set by the captors.

"I appeal to the French people to go to the streets ... because our lives are threatened," journalist Georges Malbrunot said in English on the video. Speaking in French, fellow hostage Christian Chesnot called on Chirac and his government to rescind the ban, according to the newsreader, who interpreted his remarks into Arabic.

In a video broadcast Saturday, a militant group calling itself "The Islamic Army in Iraq," gave the French government 48 hours to overturn the ban, but mentioned no threat against the men's lives. However, a militant group with a similar name was believed to have killed an Italian freelance journalist last week after Italy's government rejected a demand that it withdraw its 3,000 soldiers in Iraq.

Earlier Monday, the Chirac gov-

ernment held firm in its refusal to rescind the ban. "The law will be applied" when school doors open Thursday, government spokesman Jean-Francois Cope said.

Muslim leaders at home and abroad rallied around France with statements of support and calls on the shadowy Islamic Army of Iraq to free the two reporters. Two marches in Paris converged on a square near the Eiffel Tower, with hundreds of people chanting "Free the hostages."

Before the videos, the last time anyone heard from the French journalists was Aug. 19.

The kidnapping has been a shock to many in France, which opposed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and has pursued generally pro-Arab policies.

"The French have discovered that having opposed the Iraq war does not make them immune from the wrath of Islamists," said Bruno Tertrais at the Foundation for Strategic Research. "It didn't take an Islamic world specialist to know that we could be a target because of this law," he said.

The measure's passage in March triggered protests by Muslims, as well as turban-wearing Sikhs, around the world, who argued it is discriminatory.

While the law bans all "conspicuous" religious apparel, such as Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses, it is really aimed at Muslim head scarves in public schools. Many French fear their secular nation, which has the biggest Islamic population in western Europe with 5 million Muslims, is under threat from a rising tide of Islamic fundamentalism.

Still, Muslim activists in the Middle East appealed to the hostage-takers Monday and offered



An Iraqi woman walks past a mural Monday on the blast wall that surrounds the French Embassy in Baghdad. France vowed to press ahead with a law banning Islamic head scarves in schools, despite demands by militants holding two French journalists hostage in Iraq.

praise on France's anti-war stance on Iraq.

"Because of France's distinguished position in rejecting the

Anglo-American occupation of Iraq, we appeal to the people who kidnapped the journalists to spare their lives," said the Islam-

ic Action Front, Jordan's largest opposition group.

"We ... condemn this abduction and any other abduction because of our religion and holy Quran verses advising us to fight those who fought us, and not to assault those who did not fight," said Sheikh Ahmed al-Samara'i, an official with the Muslim Scholars Association, a Sunni group presumed to have links to insurgents.

In Beirut, Lebanon's most senior Shiite Muslim cleric, Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, renewed his religious edict against the kidnapping of foreigners and called for the release of the two French reporters.

"The kidnapping (of foreigners) runs contrary to the Quranic Islamic principles," Fadlallah said in his edict, faxed to The Associated Press.

In Egypt to lead diplomatic efforts to free the journalists, French Foreign Minister Michel Barnier called the demand to drop the French law "incomprehensible."

However, there were signs of anger when it was passed, including an ominous message for France six months ago from the top lieutenant of Osama bin Laden. An audiotape with a voice attributed to Ayman al-Zawahiri, aired Feb. 24 on Al-Arabiya television, said the law on head scarves "is another example of the Crusader's malice which Westerners have against Muslims."

Iraqi interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said the hostage crisis showed France cannot escape terrorists with a passive Iraqi policy. "France will not be spared," Allawi said. "Governments that decide to remain on the defensive will be the next targets of terrorists."

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Making 'to serve and protect' the motto of the Iraqi police

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD — "To serve and protect" is the motto of police departments across the United States. Most police officers take the position as a moral duty, not just a job.

But in the 30 years Saddam Hussein was in power, things were different for Iraqi police.

Up to now, Iraqis seeking police assistance have been going to the Americans with their complaints, according to a translator for the 1st Cavalry Division. "We tell them to go to the Iraqi police," he said, "and they say, 'We do, but they won't help us, and ask us for money.'"

Capt. Reggie Kornegay, 33, who grew up on the streets of Harlem, N.Y., is not judgmental about the Iraqi police's former operating techniques. He said he understands why police working under Saddam did what they did.

"If the police were corrupt, it was because the entire system was corrupt," said Kornegay, a civilian police officer for seven years and now a civil affairs officer with the 478th Civil Affairs Battalion. He is currently attached to the 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry Regiment in Baghdad.

"You don't blame individual officers if the leadership did not instill" the service ethic, he said.

But in order to "establish the true legitimacy" of the Iraqi police force, that has to change, he said. And now, "all the tools are present" for a professional force, he said.

The coalition has invested millions of dollars in the new force. In the past year, thousands of Iraqi police officers have undergone coalition-sponsored training in the fundamentals of tactical police work. Most have weapons and uniforms, and most police sta-

tions have been rebuilt to provide protection against attack.

But something basic is still missing: "We need to instill the moral, ethical and professional characteristics of a police department," said Kornegay, who has been assigned to training Iraqi police. "Anyone who is corrupt is not there."

The original six trainees for the course are Kornegay, two Iraqi interpreters along with Sgt. Sean Marney and Sgt. Kelsey Groff, all members of Company C, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry, of the Arkansas National Guard.

Kornegay hopes that what the staff is trying to teach the Iraqis will make a big difference to the police force — and to Iraq as a whole.

"When the Iraqi police can effectively operate and protect the community, we will see a drastic change in the sentiments of the people," Kornegay said.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.com

IN THE WORLD

Russia's choice wins Chechnya presidency

By MIKE ECKEL
The Associated Press

GROZNY, Russia — The Russian government's choice to lead war-torn Chechnya easily won a presidential election held in the wake of last week's terrorist destruction of two airliners, election officials said Monday. The opposition charged that voting was tainted by fraud.

Alu Alkhanov, the region's top police official, replaces Kremlin-backed president Akhmad Kadyrov, who was assassinated in a bomb attack in May.

Alkhanov received nearly 74 percent of the vote in Sunday's balloting, Chechen elections commission head Abdul-Kerim Arsanhanov said.

Other candidates complained of widespread violations in a vote that was shadowed by violence, including a man who blew himself up near a polling station in the Chechen capital Grozny.

Alkhanov also had received widespread coverage on local television and radio, while the six other candidates were seen little.

Worries about terrorism were stoked by the crashes of the Russian airliners five days before the election; officials said traces of explosives were found in the wreckage, and there are suspicions two Chechen women conducted the suicide attacks.

Candidate Abdullah Bugayev said he had formally complained to election officials after seeing several violations, including an Alkhanov campaign worker who



Kremlin-favored candidate Alu Alkhanov, who won the presidential election in war-torn Chechnya, speaks to the media in the Chechen capital of Grozny on Monday.

ordered people to vote for him at a polling station. A representative of Movsur Khasidov, another candidate, said he found ballot boxes at a polling place stuffed shortly after the station opened.

The election was part of the Kremlin's strategy to try to undermine support for separatist rebels who have been fighting Russian forces for nearly five years by inducing a sense of civil order in the republic. An election last October based on that strategy brought Kadyrov to power, but he was killed in a bomb blast in Grozny in May. Fighting, violent crime and abductions have continued unabated.

Election officials reported turnout of around 80 percent, Russian news agencies said. However, little activity was seen at some polling stations.

Police and soldiers were out in force, riding in cars or manning checkpoints. Pedestrians were scarce on Grozny's streets, many of which are lined with war-shattered apartment buildings with collapsed floors and large holes in their facades.

NATO authorities detain suspect in Kabul blast

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Investigators probing a deadly car bombing in the Afghan capital questioned a man detained at the Kabul airport with traces of explosives on his hands, officials said Monday, while U.S. authorities warned all Americans in the capital to be inconspicuous.

Taliban rebels claimed responsibility for Sunday's blast at a U.S. security firm, but officials said they are not ruling out any suspects, including al-Qaida. Hospital officials said 10 people were killed, including three Americans.

NATO troops grew suspicious of a man on the grounds of the Kabul airport on Sunday, spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Ken Mackillop said. After finding explosives on his hands, NATO turned the man over to Afghan authorities on Monday. The man was not identified.

"There is a suspicion against him, but for now there is no link or proof that he was involved in yesterday's attack," Interior Ministry spokesman Latfullah Mashal said. The Taliban claimed



Guards secure the site of an explosion Sunday in Kabul, Afghanistan. An American security firm was rocked by the blast, which killed 10 people and left the building in flames, officials said.

responsibility for the blast at the office of DynCorp Inc., which provides bodyguards for Afghan President Hamid Karzai and works for the American government in Iraq.

Security officials have issued repeated warnings in recent weeks that militants could step up attacks to disrupt the country's landmark Oct. 9 presidential

election. On Monday, the U.S. Embassy e-mailed Americans in Kabul to tell them to limit their movements, take strict security measures.

There were conflicting reports of the number killed in the attack, but hospitals said they were holding 10 bodies, making it the deadliest violence in Kabul since a car bomb killed 30 Afghans and wounded 150 on Sept. 5, 2002.

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Sharon wants to evacuate Gaza all at once

BY STEVE WEIZMAN
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told senior Cabinet ministers Monday he wants to evacuate all Gaza settlements at one time instead of in three stages, officials said, reflecting a major shift in position.

At a meeting of the Security Cabinet, Sharon and Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz presented their plan to evacuate all 21 Gaza settlements together, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

Up to now, the plan was to remove the settlements in three stages. Settlers and their backers, many from Sharon's own Likud Party, oppose the withdrawal from Gaza, and a staged removal could have set the stage for months of confrontations between Gaza settlers and police.

In its session Monday, the Security Cabinet approved giving the military overall responsibility for removing the settlers, while assigning the job of taking the settlers out to the police, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

On Sunday, Israel and the World Bank concluded a round of discussions about the planned pull-out, officials said.

Israel told World Bank officials it wants to destroy the houses in all Israeli settlements in Gaza, except one. The bulldozed homes would be replaced by high-rise apartment buildings for Palestinians now living in refugee camps, while the buildings in the remaining settlement, which was not named, would be used as a hospital.

Local World Bank officials could not be reached for comment on Monday.

A diplomat said countries donating aid to Palestinians have asked the bank to explore rehabilitation options for Gaza. He said a final decision on how to rebuild Gaza would be made by a committee of major donor nations.

Other analysts said they believed the concept of buying settlements or other properties built on war-won land was unlikely to win approval.

Meanwhile, an Israeli helicopter fired a missile toward a car carrying four Palestinian gunmen in the West Bank town of Jenin on Monday, but missed. The missile hit a nearby home, causing no injuries.

The apparent target was Mahmud Abu Khalifeh, a local leader of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades,



Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, flanked on the left by Dep. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, and on the right by Cabinet Secretary Yisrael Maimon, begins his weekly Cabinet meeting Monday inside the Prime Ministry building in Jerusalem.

a violent group with ties to Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

The Al Aqsa group in Jenin has claimed responsibility for an Aug. 11 bombing at an Israeli roadblock in the West Bank in which two Palestinian civilians were killed.

The army said in a statement that "the missile missed the target

and incidentally damaged a house."

Also Monday, Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails resumed a hunger strike after a weekend break. The fast began two weeks ago.

The prisoners have presented a list of demands to improve their conditions, but the main thrust of

the strike is a political blow against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Issa Karame, head of Palestinian prisoners' association, said inmates in Ashkelon jail, who suspended their strike on Friday pending the outcome of negotiations with prison authorities, resumed fasting Monday after the talks brought no results.

Russian plane terror investigators explore past of female suspects

BY MARIA DANILOVA
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — They lived in the same apartment in Chechnya, worked in the same market and may have died within moments of each other on separate airliners that crashed in Russia last week.

New details emerged Monday about the two Chechen women who are the focus of suspicion that the planes were blown up by terrorists.

Russian investigators continued piecing together information about the Tuesday crashes that killed a total of 90 people. Gen. Andrei Petsov, chief of the scientific department at the Federal Security Service, said investigators are certain there were explosions on both planes and reiterated that traces of the high explosive hexogen were found in the wreckage.

How the explosive may have been brought on board the planes that took off from Moscow is still unclear, and investigators were scraping for clues about Amanta Nagayeva and S. Dzhebrichanova, two Chechen women whose names were listed on tickets for the flights.

The crashes happened just five days before presidential elections in Chechnya, where separatist rebels have been fighting Russian forces for five years. Officials had warned that insurgents and their supporters could commit terrorist acts to try to undermine the vote.

Nagayeva, 30, and Dzhebrichanova, 37, aroused accident investigators' suspicions because they purchased tickets at the last minute — and because they were the only victims about whom no relatives were identified.

At the same time, the women's bodies had not yet been identified. Officials were considering two scenarios: El-

ther Nagayeva and Dzhebrichanova were indeed suicide bombers, or their passports were used by other women, the newspaper Izvestia reported, citing Chechen officials.

Nagayeva and Dzhebrichanova, who lived in an apartment in Grozny, Chechnya's war-shattered capital, were seen on Aug. 22 leaving by bus from the town of Khassavurt in the neighboring province of Dagestan, the newspaper said. They were believed to be en route to Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, where they often bought commodities to sell at the Grozny market.

Nagayeva was single, and Dzhebrichanova had been divorced.

Nagayeva's brother disappeared three years ago in Chechnya; the family believes he was abducted by Russian forces. A brother of Dzhebrichanova, who had been an Islamic court judge under Chechen separatist president Aslan Maskhadov, was killed in 1998.

Police foil armed robbery in Norway as porn crew catches event on tape

BY DOUG MELLGREN
The Associated Press

OSLO, Norway — Police fired shots and foiled an armed robbery of a cash transport in downtown Oslo early Monday, as the dramatic showdown was captured on video by a crew filming a pornographic movie nearby.

At least three robbers, their faces covered by ski masks,

threatened the unarmed guards of a cash transport vehicle at about 1:30 a.m. Passers-by saw the robbery attempt and alerted police.

Hans Halvorsen, head of the Oslo police crime unit, said normally unarmed police were issued weapons, and reached the scene in time to catch the robbers in the act.

"The robbers were arrested with a significant amount of cash," he said at a news conference.

Halvorsen confirmed that police fired at the fleeing robbers.

Witnesses said the officers appeared to be returning fire from the robbers, but Halvorsen said it was too early in the investigation to confirm that.

The robbery took place at Aker Brygge, an upscale shopping center and apartment complex on the Oslo waterfront. A film crew was making a porn movie in one of the apartments, and heard shouting.



Adult film star Thomas "Rocco" Hansen stands on a balcony overlooking Oslo, Norway's Aker Brygge shopping district on Monday. A crew filming a pornographic movie in an apartment overlooking the shopping plaza captured video of an armed robbery early Monday.

"We heard a lot of noise outside, and went to check I saw a guard collapsing on the ground, and a guy running," porn star Thomas "Rocco" Hansen said on national radio.

He said one film crew member grabbed a camera and recorded the rest of the action and the arrests. The tape, which lasts about an hour, was turned over to the police.

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DODDS-Pacific students head back to school

BY FRED ZIMMERMAN

Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — If there's such a thing as a collective sigh of relief, it may have been heard Monday — from parents — as Department of Defense Dependents Schools across the Pacific kicked off the new school year.

The exceptions: Sasebo Naval Base and Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. Schools there postponed opening until Tuesday, to let Typhoon Chaba clear out.

Japan

At Misawa Air Base in north-central Japan, students at Edgren High School hardly seemed to notice the steady downpour Monday morning as they compared schedules and swapped summer vacation stories outside in the rain.

The best part of being back at school had nothing to do with textbooks and tests, said Amber Van Hoesen, one of a close-knit group of eighth-grade girls. It was "seeing my friends and socializing."

Pal Britney Jeffries said she was excited because "we're not the babies anymore." Grades seven through 12 attend Edgren. As eighth-graders, the girls can leave campus for lunch, a privilege, they said, not available to seventh-graders.

For some incoming seventh-graders, making the transition from middle or elementary school to the high school was scary.

Devin Singleton and Wesley Crabtree huddled in a hallway corner Monday morning before



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

At Misawa, Edgren High School biology teacher Leslie Thiele answers a question from ninth-grader Chris Tobiere. While most DODDS-Pacific students went back to school Monday, kids on Sasebo Naval Base and Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station caught a break as schools were closed due to the approach of Typhoon Chaba. Misawa's three schools welcomed 48 new teachers this year.

the first bell, waiting to go into mini-digital and keyboarding class. Their thoughts on the first day of school?

"It's nervous," Devin said.

"It's scary with all the ninth- and tenth-graders," agreed Wesley.

Still, Wesley said he was looking forward to mini-digital, a class "where you play with computers and digital cameras."

Devin said he figured keyboard-

ing would be OK, too, but "I didn't even want to come to school because I'm nervous."

Misawa's three schools also welcomed 48 new teachers: 25 at Solars Elementary School, six at Cummings Elementary School and 17 at Edgren.

Okinawa

More than 8,500 students are attending the dozen schools on Okinawa, with more coming in, said Dr. Gayle Vaughn-Wiles, Okinawa District superintendent.

Vaughn-Wiles spent Monday morning at Amelia Earhart Intermediate School on Kadema. During an opening ceremony, she welcomed students, parents, teachers and staff and told them, "I'm expecting great things."

The new school year was rung in — literally: The school's hand bell choir performed Monday morning to a packed gymnasium of students and parents.

"If that doesn't put a smile on your face, I don't know what will ... well, I know what will for parents," joked Principal Ted Turnipseed.

Also welcoming students back was a performance by the school's Taiko drum group and

fifth-grader Gabrielle LaPerriere singing "God Bless America."

"I'm really excited because it's a new year and you can clean up your mistakes from last year and work on your goals this year," said Gabrielle, who admitted she was getting bored by summer break.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Karl Morsey, from the 18th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, also said he was happy school was starting — "but I think my wife was more ready than I was. She's the one home with them all day." Morsey said of his wife, Michelle, they are the parents of AEIS fourth-grader Holden and Bob Hope Primary School second-grader Hayley — who, her father said, asked every day last week if school was going to start the next day.

South Korea

At Osan American High School

on Osan Air Base, Monday meant both a new school year and new school for Nichole Mullin, 14, who entered 10th grade after moving to South Korea from Guam.

"It was kind of hard to sleep" Sunday night, she said Monday as scores of students looked over class assignments and chatted with friends.

As a new face, Nichole said she was feeling a bit out of place. "You don't know anybody and they just stare at you, so it's kind of creepy," she said. But she was hopeful. "I probably will get, like, friends and everything."

And she hopes her time at Osan will help "get me into a good college."

John Shouts, 14, who moved to the area from Misawa, said he too felt tension. "It was like nervousness. Because it was a new school."

But like Nichole, John, a ninth-grader, is hoping for a good education. "I'm expecting this school to be better because I heard a lot of good things about it," he said. "Like a lot of scholarships."

Monday was a milestone for Megan MacWilliam, 12. "I was excited, because it's my first day of junior high," Megan said. Part of her excitement, she said, was the prospect of attending a school with both middle and high school students. "There are going to be a lot of people here."

The first day back also can generate similar reactions in teachers.

With the new kids, especially with the seventh-graders, you have to teach them locker combinations, how to work the lock," said Osan music teacher Bill Waldron. "The first day a teacher has to be very patient because students don't know where they're going. So you have to be sensitive to that."

"You just have enough time to introduce yourself, go over the ground rules and answer questions that are pertinent to the operation of the class. And then the bell rings," Waldron said, smiling.

Jennifer Svan and Franklin Fisher contributed to this report. E-mail Fred Zimmerman at: zimmermanf@stripes.osd.mil



Above: Edgren High School eighth-graders Lani Diaz, left, Erika Sutterluety, center, and Sasha Ortiz, right, stand outside in the rain and compare class schedules.

Right: Solars Elementary School physical education teacher L.C. Woodward talks with fourth-graders about her expectations for gym class.



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Alexandra, left, and Vanessa Kerry, daughters of Democratic presidential nominee Sen. John Kerry, address the audience about the importance of voting. The Bush daughters also appeared at the show — on videotape.



The group OutKast performs during the MTV Video Music Awards in Miami on Sunday.

AP photos

MTV awards: A little political, a little polite

BY ADRIAN SAINZ

The Associated Press

MIAMI — There was no Madonna-Britney Spears kiss, no partially-clad Howard Stern coming down from the rafters, and certainly no wardrobe malfunctions.

The MTV Awards show on Sunday featured typical frenetic energy and sexy style, and a few musical surprises, but it was mostly a kinder, gentler version of past shows.

Usher showed as much skin as anybody, preening in front of the camera barechested as simulated raindrops fell on his chiseled body during the opening performance of "Burn." And the sometimes raunchy comedian Dove Chappelle even kept it relatively clean — despite teasing that he wouldn't.

"It's the biggest mistake you made since Janet Jackson at the Super Bowl," he jokingly warned, alluding to the MTV-produced Super Bowl halftime flesh show that created a firestorm earlier this year.

The change of scenery to Miami — the show typically is held in New York or Los Angeles — helped raise the decadence level at the celebrity-soaked affair, held at the downtown AmericanAirlines Arena.

Some celebrities arrived on the red carpet not by car, but by luxury yacht. "Newlyweds" stars Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey arrived in a 68-foot boat.

OutKast's vivid "Hey Ya!" — perhaps best described as the old Ed Sullivan show on acid — won four awards, including video of the year. Jay-Z's "99 Problems," the most nominated video with six, also won four. That gritty black-and-white video depicts the singer's own killing as a metaphor for his much-ballyhooed retirement.

"I felt like I was trying to push the envelope," Jay-Z, dressed in a dapper white suit and hat, said as he accepted an award — called a moonman after the channel's logo — for best rap video.

Going home with moonmen

The Associated Press

List of winners for the 2004 MTV Video Music Music

Awards:

Video of the year: OutKast, "Hey Ya!"

Best pop video: No Doubt, "It's My Life"

Best rap video: Jay-Z, "99 Problems"

Best female video: Beyoncé, "Naughty Girl"

Best male video: Usher, featuring Lil' Jon & Ludacris, "Yeah!"

Best R&B video: Alicia Keys, "If I Ain't Got You"

Best rock video: Jet, "Are You Gonna Be My Girl"

Breakthrough video: Franz Ferdinand, "Take Me Out"

Best director: Mark Romanek, "99 Problems"

Best special effects: OutKast, "Hey Ya!"

Best art direction: OutKast, "Hey Ya!"

Best editing: Jay-Z, "99 Problems"

Best cinematography: Jay-Z, "99 Problems"

Best choreography: Black Eyed Peas, "Hey Mama"

Best dance video: Usher, featuring Lil' Jon & Ludacris, "Yeah!"

Best hip-hop video: OutKast, "Hey Ya!"

Best group video: No Doubt, "It's My Life"

Best new artist in a video: Maroon 5, "This Love"

MTV2 award: Yellowcard, "Ocean Avenue"

Viewer's choice: Linkin Park, "Breaking the Habit"

Usher won his first moonman as he took best male video for "Yeah!"

"This is my first time coming up here — let me take my time with this," a beaming Usher said.

As usual, the awards were an afterthought to explosive performances and surprise cameos.

Alicia Keys gave a dramatic, soulful spin of her hit "If I Ain't

Got You," and was buoyed by Stevie Wonder on harmonica.

Moments later, she joined Wonder and Lenny Kravitz as they sang a classic Wonder hit, "Higher Ground."

Keys also appeared on stage to honor the late Ray Charles, who died in June.

The daughters of Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry and President Bush made an appearance — the Bush daugh-

ters on videotape — to urge people to vote. Even the Rev. Al Sharpton made an appearance connected to voting — not for the election, though, but for the viewer's choice award.

The show, held a day before the Republican convention was to kick off in New York City, ended on a patriotic note, as red, white and blue balloons fell from the rafters and fans held "vote" signs during OutKast's closing performance.



Left: Alicia Keys honors the late Ray Charles. Center: P. Diddy, left, hugs Usher after Usher won the Best Dance Video of the Year. Above: Jessica Simpson greets the crowd outside AmericanAirlines Arena.

IN THE STATES

GOP ratifies platform, portrays Bush as strong

Bush causes stir by saying 'I don't think you can win' the war on terror

BY DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Republican National Convention delegates ratified President Bush's unflinchingly conservative re-election platform Monday, then settled in for a day of political oratory extolling him as a leader for all Americans in an age of terrorism.

Democratic challenger Sen. John Kerry is "weak on war and wrong on taxes," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

Bush campaigned in New Hampshire as the GOP opened its four-day run, triggering an instant campaign stir when he told an interviewer he doubted victory is possible in the war on terror.

"I don't think you can win it. But I think you can create the conditions that those who use terror as a tool are less acceptable in parts of the world," he told NBC. Democratic vice presidential candidate John Edwards quickly labeled that a concession of defeat in the war on terrorism, and White House spokesman Scott McClellan hastened to clarify the president's remarks.

The delegates met at Madison Square Garden, four miles from the scarred landscape where the World Trade Center twin towers once stood. Officials mustered a security force of thousands in the area around the hall, part of an effort to thwart any attempt at a repeat attack.



Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani is surrounded by the media during the first day of the Republican National Convention Monday in New York.

Inside the hall, Vice President Dick Cheney and his wife Lynne were ushered to their seats in time to hear his name placed in nomination for another term. "Four more years" the delegates shouted in unison.

Cheney speaks Wednesday night, followed by Bush's prime-time acceptance speech Thursday, an appearance that marks the end of the convention season

and the beginning of the presidential campaign.

Polls show Bush in a tough race for re-election, and Kerry has been helped by surveys in which at least a strong plurality of Americans says the country is headed in the wrong direction. At the same time, the president receives high marks from the public for his decisiveness and leadership. And recent attacks by an outside group of veterans on Kerry's decorated Vietnam

War record have coincided with polls suggesting increased momentum for the president. Democrats call the attacks a Republican-financed smear campaign.

The platform, crafted to Bush's specifications, lauded his response to the terrorist attacks. "The president's most solemn duty is to protect our country. George W. Bush has kept that charge," it said.

Envisioning a new "ownership era," it also endorsed additional tax relief and major changes to Social Security allowing individuals to use a portion of their payroll taxes to establish personal retirement accounts.

The platform also calls for constitutional amendments to ban gay marriages and abortions, and uphold the administration's policy limiting federal funding for embryonic stem cell research to lines in existence as of three years ago.

Sen. John McCain and Rudy Giuliani had the featured speaking slots. The Arizona senator has strong appeal among independents and the former New York City mayor was widely praised for his actions in the wake of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Their appearances at the podium were part of a larger convention-week effort by Republicans to broaden Bush's appeal beyond his conservative base. Both McCain and Giuliani oppose the constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, for example, as does one of Tuesday night's featured speakers, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

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Frances waits in the winds

Gaston gone, but Carolinas not in clear

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Central North Carolina was drenched Monday by the remains of Tropical Storm Gaston, the fourth named storm to strike the state in August, as thousands of customers in the Carolinas waited for their power to be restored.

Up to 6 inches of rain was likely in parts of North Carolina and flash flood warnings were posted. The storm already had poured as much as 10 inches on the Charleston, S.C., area on Sunday after blowing ashore.

While the Carolinas cleared away downed trees and waited for flooded streets to drain, residents were being told to keep an eye on Hurricane Frances, a powerful storm heading across the Atlantic toward the Caribbean with 120 mph wind.

Residents "from Florida to the Carolinas should start monitoring the progress of this storm," Hugh Cobb, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, said on Friday.

South Carolina officials said



Bill Bowman, of Fort Mill, S.C., braves the strong winds of Tropical Storm Gaston on Sunday as he walks the Sea Cabins Villas pier on the Isle of Palms, S.C.

THE (CHARLESTON, S.C.) POST AND COURIER/AP

there was only one initial report of a serious injury caused by Gaston — a Charleston County resident injured by a falling tree. In North Carolina, there was a report of one person killed on a rain-slippery highway but the state Highway Patrol couldn't immediately confirm it.

More than 6,500 customers were without power Monday in North Carolina. The National Weather Service said portions of Chatham and western Johnston counties had already received 2 to 3 inches of rain by 8 a.m. Wind blew at 15 mph to 25 mph with gusts to 32 mph.

North Carolina also has been hit this month by Alex, which brushed the Outer Banks on Aug. 3; by Bon-

nie, which spawned several tornadoes on Aug. 13 including one that killed three people; and by Charley, a hurricane that struck the coast with wind and heavy rain on Aug. 14 after devastating wide areas of central Florida.

Gaston came ashore Sunday in South Carolina with 70 mph sustained wind, flooding streets and toppling utility poles in Charleston.

Elsewhere, Tropical Storm Hermine, the eighth named storm of the season, was headed for the north Atlantic. The center of Hermine was about 325 miles south-southwest of Nantucket, Mass., by late Monday morning. The storm, with wind near 50 mph, was moving toward the north and was expected to weaken.

Fla. Supreme Court gets right-to-die case

Schiavo's fate now has political ramifications

BY VICKIE CHACHERE

The Associated Press

CLEARWATER, Fla. — The battle over Terri Schiavo has played out at times like a soap opera, but when the Florida Supreme Court hears arguments in the case Tuesday it will be deadly serious stuff.

The woman is at the center of one of the nation's longest right-to-die disputes; it has pitted her husband against her parents.

The question before the court is whether the law that Gov. Jeb Bush signed in October to keep the 40-year-old Schiavo alive violates her constitutional right to privacy and the separation of powers between the branches of Florida's government.

"It's a fight for dominance between the governor's office and the courts," said Steven Gey, a law professor at Florida State University.

The court has no deadline for issuing its decision.

It has been more than 14 years since Schiavo suffered brain damage when her heart stopped beating, a condition brought on by an eating disorder. She left no written instructions in the event she became incapacitated.

Schiavo can breathe on her own but relies on a feeding tube to live. Some medical experts have de-

clared she is in a persistent vegetative state with no hope of recovery.

Her husband, Michael, has argued that she would not want to be kept alive artificially and, last October, Michael Schiavo withdrew the feeding tube.

A judge ruled that there was clear and convincing evidence that Schiavo would not have wanted to be kept alive artificially and, last October, Michael Schiavo withdrew the feeding tube.

But Bush pushed "Terri's Law" through the Legislature and forced the reinsertion of the tube.

Later, Circuit Judge W. Douglas Baird ruled the law wrongly allowed Bush to intervene in a matter of personal privacy and was improperly used by the governor. The tube is in place at present.

George Felos, Michael Schiavo's attorney, has argued that what Bush has done amounts to force-feeding Terri Schiavo. In court filings, Felos has charged that the governor imposed his will on her, without regard to what she would have wanted.

But attorney Ken Connor, who is representing Bush, said the law is an added layer of protection for the disabled in an unusual case where there is doubt about what the patient might have wanted.

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Census bureau shakes info-sharing policy

Agency will not turn over details about minorities to anti-terror officials without approval

The Associated Press

DEARBORN, Mich. — The U.S. Census Bureau says it is ending a practice of routinely turning over detailed information about Arabs or other minorities to anti-terrorist officials without high-level approval.

The Census Bureau revealed Aug. 13 that it had been reporting demographic data about Arab Americans to a Homeland Security agency. The bureau said it was

providing only population numbers and not names, addresses or other private details.

Responding to requests over the past two years from the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, the Census Bureau said it had provided files that included a count of U.S. residents of Arab descent in certain ZIP codes. It said names and street addresses were not included.

The release drew sharp criticism from

some advocacy groups, which said it undermined the public's trust.

Census Director Louis Kincannon said data requests from law enforcement and intelligence agencies now must be approved by one of eight associate directors, the second-highest-ranking officials in the Census Bureau. He said the policy will not keep police from getting similar numbers in the future, mainly because much of it is already available on the bureau's Web site.

But he told The Detroit News for a story Monday that it lets officials keep tabs on who requests information and how it is used.

"This is an important step in the right direction to restore people's confidence," said Imad Hamad, a New York-based Middle East director of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. "But in many people's minds, the damage is already done. I only hope we can overcome this."

Drunken driver leaves decapitated passenger in truck while he sleeps

The Associated Press

MARIETTA, Ga. — A drunken driver hit a telephone pole Sunday night that decapitated his passenger, then drove 12 miles home and slept in his bloody clothes, leaving the headless body in his truck, police said.

A neighbor walking with his young daughter Sunday morning discovered Daniel Brohm's headless corpse in the truck in John Kemper Hutcherson's driveway and called authorities, said Cpl. Dana Pierce, county police spokesman.

Officers found Hutcherson asleep inside his home. He was wearing drunk and in clothes were bloody, authorities said. They later found Brohm's severed head at the crash site.

"It's hard for me to imagine that you would drive miles from a crash site to your home, turning in various directions, and yet not know what has happened to a passenger sitting next to you," Pierce said.

Hutcherson, 21, was charged with vehicular homicide, driving under the influence and failing to stop at a crash site with death or injury. He was jailed on a \$100,000 bond; it was unclear Monday whether he had an attorney. Police said Hutcherson and Brohm — friends since high school — were drinking at a bar Saturday night and left after Brohm said he felt sick.

Brohm, 23, apparently was leaning out of the window when Hutcherson hit the spot where a mile and a half from the bar.

Eight years later, man finds HIV test was a false-positive

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A California man who once tested positive for the virus that causes AIDS has learned the diagnosis made eight years ago was mistaken and he was never infected.

Jim Malone spent years battling depression and losing weight, expecting to die at any time. He attended support group meetings and accepted free meals from an AIDS charity.

Malone's main physician, Dr. Richard Karp, acknowledged the error in an Aug. 4 letter to the Department of Veterans Affairs clinic where Malone was treated.

"As his primary provider, I take full responsibility," the doctor wrote.

"As his primary care provider, I take full responsibility."

Dr. Richard Karp
Malone's main physician

Malone, who is gay and has lost friends to AIDS, said he is relieved but angry at his doctor.

"He told me, 'We made a very big mistake. We did not do our job,'" he said. "I said, 'You mean to tell me that all you have to say is you are sorry? Sorry that I lived for all this time believing I was going to die?'"

The Oakland Department of Veterans Affairs is investigating.

The error may have occurred because Malone arrived at the clinic in 1996 with lab results from a testing firm showing he had HIV, said Karen Primore, spokeswoman for the VA's Northern California Health Care System.

The clinic performed its own HIV test on Malone to confirm the first set of results and it came back negative, but that information was never shared with the patient, Primore said.

The mistake was uncovered by the VA's computer system, which tracks HIV patients and conducts a periodic review of cases.

Israeli diplomat met with Pentagon spy suspect

By KARIN LAUB

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A senior Israeli diplomat in Washington has met with a Pentagon analyst being investigated by the FBI on suspicion he passed classified information to Israel, Israeli officials confirmed Monday.

However, Israeli officials reiterated Monday that Israel's Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said meetings between Israeli embassy employees and U.S. government officials are commonplace, and that the two governments routinely share secrets.

"Israel and the United States have intimate ties... and the information being exchanged is much more classified than any conversation that may have taken place," Shamal said at a news conference.

U.S. officials say the FBI investigation focuses on Lawrence A. Frank, an analyst of Iranian affairs who works in a Pentagon policy office headed by Douglas J. Feith, the undersecretary for policy. Feith has been accused by Democrats of seeking to manipulate intelligence to help make the case for going in Iraq. Congressional investigations have found no evidence of that.

The Israeli diplomat was identi-

fied as Naor Gilon, head of the political department at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, and a specialist on Iran's nuclear weapons program. Shamal did not mention Gilon by name, but when asked about contacts between Gilon and Franklin he did not deny they had taken place.

The Israeli daily Maariv on Monday quoted Gilon as saying that he did nothing wrong.

"My hands are clean. I have nothing to hide," he said. "I acted according to the regulations."

The diplomat told Maariv he was concerned that as a result of the reports, he won't be able to continue working in Washington.

"Now, people will be scared to talk to me," the newspaper quoted him as saying.

Newsweek magazine reported in this week's edition that more than a year ago, the FBI was monitoring a meeting between an Israeli Embassy official and a representative of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the main Israeli lobbying group in Washington.

At one point, Franklin joined the two, according to the magazine.

Newsweek did not identify the Israeli diplomat, but Israeli media said it apparently was Gilon. Israeli officials said Gilon has met repeatedly with Franklin.

Newsweek, citing U.S. intelligence officials, said that Franklin on one occasion allegedly tried to hand over a classified U.S. policy document on Iran, but that the Israeli diplomat refused to take it.


Maariv quoted Israeli sources as saying that Gilon did not take documents from Franklin, but had frequent meetings with him.

Israel's Foreign Ministry declined to comment.

The Israeli ambassador to the United States, Danny Ayalon, told

Maariv that Gilon went by the book, and that "nothing was done under the table."

The New York Times reported in its Monday edition that government officials say Franklin had been cooperating with federal agents for several weeks and was preparing to lead them to contacts inside the Israeli government when work of the investigation, first reported by CBS News, was leaked late last week. Efforts to reach Franklin by telephone have been unsuccessful.



Cents and Sensibility

Money tip of the day

Beware Bank of Bedrock

Los Angeles Times

Yabba dabba don't! Federal banking authorities put out an alert last week warning consumers to steer clear of a Web site linked with the "First National Bank of Bedrock."

The bank claims to be based in Bedrock, Colo. But according to the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the institution is as phony as the town of Bedrock that "The Flintstones" call

home.

Regulators aren't sure whether First National Bank of Bedrock is a joke or a fraud, but they say consumers need to beware.

"There are a lot of scams out there," said Kevin Mukri, spokesman for the Comptroller. "Usually, they're after the same thing: personal information and account numbers. Unfortunately, these things pop up all the time. We will close down this one, but another one will pop up tomorrow."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Aug. 30)	107.00
S. Korean won (Aug. 28)	123.00
Euro...	6.177
British pound	1.485
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	\$1.341
British pound	\$1.785
Canada (Dollar)	1.315
Denmark (Krone)	\$6.118
Euro (Euro)	6.225
France (Franc)	\$1.206
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.796
Hungary (Forint)	206.10
Iceland (Krona)	73.515
Israel (Shekel)	4.5413
Japan (Yen)	109.63
Kuwait (Dinar)	2.947
Malaysia (Ringgit)	2.567
Philippines (Peso)	56.08
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	1.717
South Africa (Rand)	1.512
S. Korea (Won)	1.152
Switzerland (Franc)	6.206
Thailand (Baht)	41.67
Turkey (Lira)	1.512

(Military exchange rates are those available to current military personnel serving facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-military exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military bank. U.S. figures are for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound which is reciprocal in dollars-to-pound and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Merc slide	
Gold	\$403.30
Silver	\$5.988

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	4.50
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.50
3-month bill	1.56
30-year Treasury	6.50

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America, Bloomberg.com

FACES 'N' PLACES



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORGAN LOOSLI AP

Songwriter and singer Norah Jones performs at the Old Opera in Frankfurt, Germany, on April 30. Jones has become more comfortable with life on the road and with her musical career and believes she has grown as an artist. Her latest album, "Feels Like Home," has more of a country sound than her debut, "Come Away With Me," and it energizes crowds at concerts. "Feels Like Home" sold more than 1 million copies in its first week of release.

*And now the day
The hour hand has spun
Before the night is done
I just have to hear
Those sweet words
Spoken like a melody
Norah Jones gets a little bit country
and gets used to being a performer*

BY JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Norah Jones has been on the road so long, she's considered putting a couch on the stage and calling her tour "The Couch Tour."

The sultry-voiced Texan singer kicked off the U.S. leg of her world tour Aug. 12 with the Handsome Band, fresh from playing through Europe in support of her new album, "Feels Like Home."

And the shy Jones, who was thrust into stardom with her runaway hit debut "Come Away With Me," is feeling more at ease.

"Performing live wasn't that great the first time around," Jones said. "But I think there's a learning curve to it, and now I feel a lot more comfortable."

On stage, the normally stationary pianist is even striding out from her perch behind the piano to sing.

"I used to think I looked like a mario-nette when I stand up," said Jones. "But now I'm standing up more and wearing skirts more."

When asked what led to this new performing ease, Jones concedes that much of it comes from simply getting accustomed to the bright lights of a sta-

dium tour. But her newfound comfort on the stage is also due to remembering that she's in control.

Jones, 25, says that while there are things that she has to do as such a popular performer, she finds the key is to "try to make it fun for myself." And she's doing just that.

In concert, Jones is featuring songs from her new album, which have a more country sound and lend more energy to her shows. Jones and her band also have been playing covers of The Band and Tom Waits.

Her new album, "Feels Like Home," sold more than 1 million copies in its first week of release in February. Jones' first CD, "Come Away With Me," has sold 8 million-plus copies and garnered her eight Grammys last year, including album of the year. Her tour is scheduled to run through Nov. 14.

Jones, the daughter of New York concert producer Sue Jones and Indian musician Ravi Shankar, started singing publicly in the Dallas area at age 16. She studied jazz piano for two years at the University of North Texas in Denton.

Hilton puts her life in writing

Paris Hilton is trying on a new outfit: a hard cover. The model-reality TV star has written a 198-page memoir, "Confessions of an Heiress: A Tongue-in-Chic Peek Behind the Pose."

Though the missing Chihuahua saga was too recent to make the book, Hilton writes about her youth as an heiress in a "really close" family. Excerpts of the book (to hit shelves Sept. 7) are in the Aug. 27 edition of People magazine.

Her "Confessions" reveal a girl not as confident as the runway model frequently seen in the tabloids.

Hilton's memoirs are not without fashion tips, either.

"Trust me, people act differently to you when you've got jewelry on your head."



Hilton

Winfrey: One murder trial is enough

Oprah Winfrey said she would not want to serve as a juror in a murder trial again, but she enjoyed getting to

know her fellow jurors — and invited them to her show to talk about the experience.

Winfrey was one of 12 jurors who convicted a Chicago man of murder Aug. 18. The billionaire's presence drew massive amounts of media attention to what normally would have been a low-profile case.

Winfrey briefly discussed the experience with other jurors who sat in the audience of her show before she interviewed actors Gwyneth Paltrow and Jude Law.

Winfrey invited the jurors to stay after the show for a lunch prepared by her personal chef.

Cornwell funds police scholarships

Author Patricia Cornwell announced she is giving \$20,000 more to fund scholarships for law enforcement officials attending the University of Tennessee's National Forensics Academy.

Cornwell's 1994 book "The Body Farm" is based on the school's experimental station that studies bodies in varying stages of decay.



Winfrey

She established the scholarship fund in 2002 and made the announcement at the academy's alumni training seminar in Knoxville, UT officials said.

The scholarship helps police departments with limited budgets send officers to attend the academy's 10-week training program for crime scene investigators.

Simmons considers 'Queer Eye' makeover

How would the guys from "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" make over the black and white makeup of Kiss? We may get to find out.

Gene Simmons, the tongue-wagging bassist of Kiss, is considering an appearance on the Bravo reality show. On his Web site, Simmons says that producers for the show have asked him join the Fab Five for an episode.

"They called me and asked me if I would do it. I'm a fan of the show. We may shoot on the 28th of September," Simmons says.

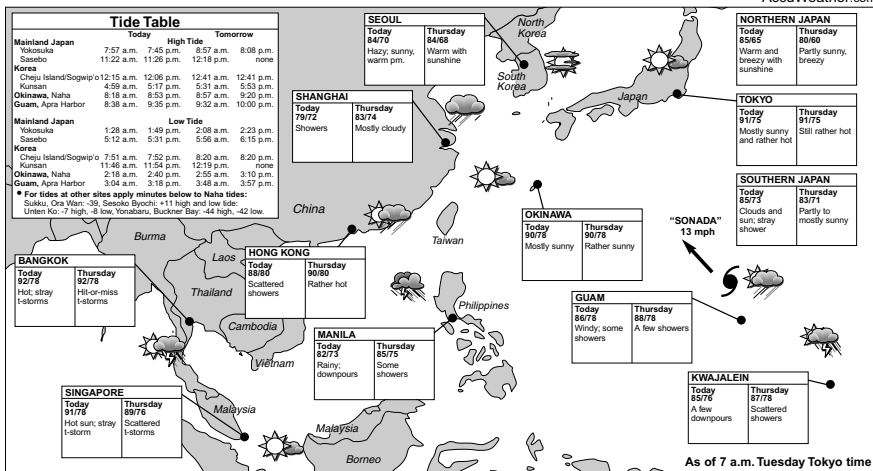
"Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" is in its second season.



Simmons

The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Friday: Thunderstorms, high 80, low 68.
Saturday: Thunderstorms, high 78, low 70.

KADENA

Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 82, low 67.
Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 78.
Sunday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 78.

SEoul

Friday: Mostly sunny, high 82, low 67.
Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 83, low 67.

MANILA

Friday: Showers, high 87, low 75.
Saturday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 77.

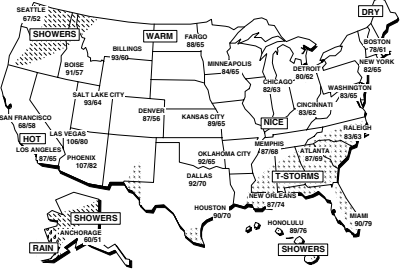
HAGATNA

Friday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 76.
Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 76.

Monday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	87/62	Los Angeles	86/64
Amarillo	86/61	Little Rock	87/62
Anchorage	66/50	Louisville	80/62
Athensville	80/63	Miami	93/79
Baltimore	84/69	Milwaukee	74/57
Birmingham	87/67	Nashville	82/62
Bismarck	84/55	New York	84/72
Boise	92/63	Omaha	87/63
Boston	87/69	Orlando	93/74
Brownsville	91/76	Philadelphia	84/71
Charlotte	88/67	Phoenix	107/83
Burlington	77/62	Pittsburgh	74/58
Charleston, SC	92/75	Portland, OR	86/61
Chattanooga	88/67	Portland, ME	84/67
Cleveland	70/57	Salt Lake City	87/60
Columbus, OH	76/58	St. Louis	82/64
Duluth	70/50	San Antonio	93/68
El Paso	89/64	San Diego	79/65
Hartford	86/68	San Juan	90/78
Helena	87/53	Tampa	90/77
Indianapolis	78/59	Tulsa	89/67
Jacksonville	92/74	Washington	86/70
Kansas City	86/64	Wichita	89/64

Wednesday, September 01



U.S. Extended Forecast

High pressure will promote a tranquil day over the Northeast Wednesday with a good deal of sunshine. A frontal boundary stretched across the Great Lakes and Upper Midwest will touch off a few showers and thunderstorms, while afternoon thunderstorms will develop over the Southeast. A storm system moving ashore in the Pacific Northwest will bring unsettled and cooler conditions to Washington, Oregon and Idaho. This storm will move through the northern Rockies Thursday with showers and thunderstorm to the east of the storm. Afternoon thunderstorms will plague the Southeast once again Thursday and Friday. Attention will also be focused on Hurricane Frances as it moves through the Bahamas.

Wednesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	92/78	Iwakuni	86/72
Beijing	85/67	Kadena AB	90/78
Camp Casey	83/63	Kunsan AB	83/70
Christchurch	54/39	Kwajalein	85/76
Diego Garcia	83/75	Manila	82/73
Hagatna	86/78	Misawa AB	86/66
Hanoi	87/76	Okinawa	84/66
Hong Kong	88/80	Perth	62/48
Honolulu	88/78	Pusan	84/71

Wednesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	91/77	Budapest	74/52
Athens	87/70	Buenos Aires	72/52
Auckland	57/48	Cairo	96/67
Baghdad	113/78	Cancun	87/73
Barbados	91/75	Cape Town	66/44
Barcelona	74/61	Geneva	72/60
Berlin	65/50	Istanbul	80/63
Bermuda	87/75	Jakarta	90/68
Brussels	67/53	Johannesburg	72/49
		Moscow	81/59
		Nairobi	76/48
		New Delhi	96/80
		Oslo	59/48
		Paris	69/56
		Rio de Janeiro	73/63
		Rome	81/62
		St. Petersburg	79/58
		Stockholm	63/50
		Warsaw	66/45



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OPINION

No sugar-coating the bad news on chocolate

BY STEVE ALMOND

In the beginning, there was candy. It was, well, fattening. It was intended to be fattening. That was the whole point of candy. Or actually, check that. The whole point of candy was to give the mouth and body pleasure and, as an unfortunate-but-unavoidable byproduct, it was fattening.

If you look at the history of candy (as I have done, somewhat obsessively), you will notice that confectioners and their consumers recognized these truths to be self-evident until about a decade ago.

This is when the oxymoronic concept of "diet candy" emerged.

Previously, the sugar-free stuff had been marketed primarily to diabetics. All of a sudden you had these perfectly innocent pleasures, such as Red Vines and Mike & Ike, touting themselves as fat-free, along with a flood of faux candy bars advertised variously as diet bars, protein bars, energy bars and so on.

Candy was, for the first time in its long and sugared history, attempting to deny its very nature by being good for you.

In the next few weeks, this trend will reach its apogee with the nationwide introduction of a new line from Hershey called Carb Alternatives.

The industry giant (along with Mars and Nestle, Hershey's dominant, the \$24 billion-a-year candy market) is hoping to cash in on the massive popularity of low-carb diets with slimmed-down versions of three popular products: Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, Kit Kat bars and Hershey's Kisses.

There is no need to labor the science of these products. They basically use artificial sweeteners to reduce the "sugar carbs" in each piece.

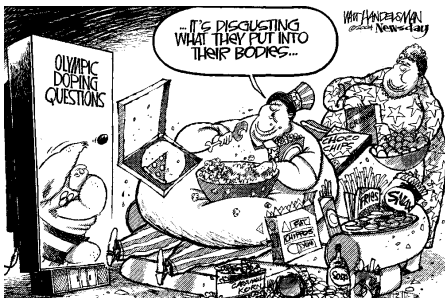
For the record, I've sampled all three. They taste considerably better than most diet candy. (How's that for damning with faint praise?) But, to my tongue, they still came off as frauds.

Chocolate, after all, is nature's most distinctive flavor. It can't be faked, precisely because the tongue and taste buds interact with chocolate so intimately. We have come to expect that burst of creamy sweetness that only cocoa liquor, cocoa butter and sugar can provide. ...

One of the keynote speakers at this year's All-Candy Expo in Chicago was Dr. Barry Sears, author of the best-selling diet book "The Zone." Inviting Sears to address candy excess struck me as a little like inviting John Ashcroft to lecture the American Civil Liberties Union. But so be it. This is life in the Atkins era.

The truth is, the candy industry is facing an image crisis that cuts far deeper than the current hysteria. With Newsweek slapping pictures of obese kids on its cover, and films such as "Super Size Me" taking aim at Ronald McDonald and friends, there's a distinct fear that Willy Wonka will come under fire next.

The British book "Chocolate Busters" has lobbed the first volley, portraying chocolate as only slightly less harmful than cigarettes and accusing confectioners of orchestrating an elaborate cover-up of their products' health risks.



It's true enough that chocolate, like any other luxury item, is the byproduct of horrendous global inequalities. But the notion that willing consumers of candy should be cast as victims is laughable. The real problem is that our citizenry eats too much and does too little exercise. We move, in essence, from the cubicle to the car seat.

And our consumption of candy isn't just excessive; it's neurotic.

Rather than eating candy in moderate amounts and relishing the experience, we

stuff our faces in a guilty frenzy, to quell loneliness and self-doubt.

The sad irony of the low-carb movement is that it will only feed this cycle. People will wind up eating more of this low-taste crud — "Hey, honey, it's only got one gram of sugar carbs!" — and giving themselves far less pleasure.

How very American.

Steve Almond is the author of "Candyfreak: A Journey Through the Chocolate Underbelly of America." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Current candidates comfortable with using past icons

NEW YORK

This is the season of the dead presidents. It is the time in the election campaign when both parties lean heaviest on their icons, drawing comparisons between their man and the one who in the years since his demise has become identified with enviable qualities that weren't recognized when he was alive.

For most of the last century, Republicans pointed to their first president, Abraham Lincoln, as the inspiration. Democrats, on the other hand, called on the ghosts of Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman for inspiration. Now it seems to be Ronald Reagan who, in death, has inherited the place of distinction with the Republicans and John F. Kennedy who has displaced Roosevelt and Truman, relegating lesser lights such as Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton to more minor positions in the political business.

Reagan's stature in the presidential firmament has climbed steadily, partially with the publication of his private letters and position papers that clearly show he wasn't quite the boob that the liberals liked to label (or, for that matter, label him). That even makes him much more acceptable to intellectual independents and moderates, who were inclined at times to dismiss him as merely a second-rate actor who was playing his best role. So when Ken Mehlman, George W. Bush's campaign manager, went before the hugely important Ohio delegation to the GOP convention, he invoked the name of the now saintly Reagan several times. Most importantly he told them that once every 20 years, voters just didn't make a choice for president but cast their ballots for one who had the vision to dramatically change the history

of the world for the better. The implication was clear: Reagan ended the Cold War and George W. Bush has the vision and strength to overcome the terrorists, both independents and state-sanctioned.

To this, one is tempted to reply that, "I knew Ronald Reagan, and George W. Bush is no Ronald Reagan." But then that would be impolite, not to mention trite.

But it isn't only Reagan's willingness to take on evil empires that is now being attached to the current president by White House political guru Karl Rove and Mehlman and their henchmen. His tax-cut policies also come up for comparison to Bush. It's the economy — decline in jobs specifically — that is threatening to undercut the president in the once-impenetrable GOP stronghold of Ohio. It is for that reason that all the party's and Bush campaign's heavy artillery has been trained here on a state delegation that in the past would have been taken for granted.

For the Democrats, Kennedy, despite his tarnished personal life, is the man most fa-

vored, and one would have had to been hearing- and sight-impaired (in other words deaf and blind) not to have seen the comparison between the World War II Swift boat hero from Massachusetts and the Vietnam Swift boat hero from Massachusetts (and not just because they have the same initials) during the Democratic version of what is going on here. This, of course, once again prompts one to venture to John Kerry that, "I knew John Kennedy, and you're no John Kennedy." But once again, that would be impolite and trite.

There is one difference in the party's use of icons. The Democrats' reference to Kennedy are pretty much limited to his wartime heroism, just as the recital of Kerry achievements was pretty much limited to the four months he spent in Vietnam with his 20 years in the Senate all but ignored in the recitation of achievements. That is because neither Kennedy nor Kerry distinguished themselves on Capitol Hill. In fact a good comparison would be the large number of votes they both missed while campaign-

ing for the presidency. But then who is counting? In the history of dead presidents, the modern record of campaign mentions belongs to a Republican who is not among those who have been cited here. The champion in this category is Herbert Hoover, the brilliant humanitarian and engineer whose name has become synonymous with the Great Depression. Ironically, he has earned the distinction of most remembered through the Democrats, who have been running against him ever since, invoking his name in derision at every opportunity.

After a few years of dormancy they have once again disinterred him in an effort to draw a comparison between him and Bush.

The Republicans understandably seldom mention Hoover in public.

That's too bad because in truth he may have been smarter and more honest than all the rest, just a bit unlucky in his timing to say the least.

Dan Thomasson is former editor of Scripps Howard News Service.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Body found on roof

NY NEW YORK — A body was found by construction workers on the roof of a church on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

The victim was believed to be a 30-year-old man who was reported missing. The cause of death was unknown, but investigators suspect foul play, police said.

The workers found the body in a rooftop construction shed at St. Paul & St. Andrew Methodist Church on West 86th Street, police said.

Man robs bank to buy car

UT SOUTH OGDEN — Zachary Hayden liked the car he only needed to stop at the bank to get some money.

The problem is, police said, he didn't have an account.

Authorities said Hayden, 31, of Warsaw, Ind., robbed the Wells Fargo Bank after test driving a Ford Escort from the Good-One Auto Store and then used the car for his getaway.

More than six hours after the robbery, Nevada Highway Patrol pulled the car over near Ely, Nev., about 200 miles south of South Ogden. It still had the white, price numbers — \$1,895 — on the window and dealer license plates.

Like any good salesman, Trent Goodwin tried to put a positive spin on the situation.

"Our deals are so good, bank robbers shop here," he said.

Banana Split day

PA PITTSBURGH — University of Pittsburgh alumni have won the Nobel Prize, played in the National Football League and unlocked the secrets of DNA.

The university celebrated a less prestigious but equally sweet accomplishment by one of its own — the banana split.

Pitt declared "Banana Split Day" and celebrated the dessert's 100th birthday by serving about 4,000 ice cream cones to students, family members and others returning to campus for the new school year.

Ice cream aficionados believe David E. Strickler, a 1906 graduate of Pitt's School of Pharmacy, created the first banana split in 1904 when he was an apprentice at Tassell Pharmacy in Latrobe, Pa.

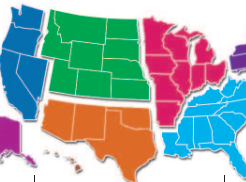
Herpes lawsuit

VA VIRGINIA BEACH — A lawsuit that accuses a Virginia Beach man of intentionally passing herpes to his lover may have implications for state law on fornication between unmarried adults.

Attorneys for a woman identified only as Jane Doe filed suit this month in Circuit Court, claiming that a Virginia Beach man gave the woman genital herpes after the two began having sexual relations in April.

In court papers, the man's attorney claims the woman broke a state law that forbids sexual intercourse outside marriage, and therefore she cannot claim injury.

Matthew W. Smith, the woman's attorney, said the Virginia Supreme Court has ruled it is illegal to recover damages from an injury that occurs while breaking a law. But he thinks that ruling will not stand up today.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Boy fatally shoots father

TX HOUSTON — A 10-year-old boy fatally shot his father after the man came to pick him and his brother up for a weekend visit, authorities said.

Rick James Lohstroh, 41, was shot several times as he sat in the front seat of his sport utility vehicle, said Sgt. R.E. Williams of the Harris County Sheriff's Department. The boy was sitting in the back seat.

After firing shots through the back seat, the boy got out of the vehicle and continued to fire at it, Williams said. Lohstroh, a doctor at the University of Texas Medical Branch, died on the way to a hospital.

Preliminary reports indicate that the boy did not want to visit his father. Lohstroh and the boy's mother shared custody of the children.

The gun belonged to the boy's mother, Williams said.

Seal bites tourist

HI POIPIU — An endangered Hawaiian monk seal bit a tourist at Kauai's Poiipu Beach after the man shed the seal out of the way, officials said.

The 64-year-old man was not seriously injured in the confrontation in waters fronting the Sheraton Kauai Hotel.

He received a tetanus shot and



Letting go

Dr. Bridget Dunnigan, of the Woods Hole Science Aquarium, releases a Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle at Dowses Beach, in Oysterville, Mass. Four of the endangered turtles were released into the ocean after six months of rehabilitation at aquariums in Massachusetts.

antibiotics.

"The individual got aggressive with the seal. He was trying to get to shore and he tried to push the seal away," said Brad Ryon, a marine biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. "I talked to him afterward and he was more embarrassed than anything."

Teen defends shirt

GA ATLANTA — The town of Hempstead, N.Y., has a message for Gwinnett County administrators: Before you target a student wearing a Hempstead shirt, look at a map.

Terrell Jones, a student in Gwinnett County's Grayson High School, was wheeled out of a classroom by a school administrator because he wore a shirt that read: "Hempstead, NY 516," a reference to the Long Island town and its telephone area code.

According to Jones' family, which moved from Hempstead to the Atlanta suburb, the school thought the shirt referred to marijuana.

Jones wasn't allowed to return to class until he persuaded school officials to search the Internet for the town name.

The student's father, James Jones, said he wants an apology for the incident.

Terrell Jones says he will keep wearing the shirt to school.

Woman delivers at home

MA BOSTON — An internal investigation is under way at Brigham and Women's Hospital after a pregnant woman, who twice was sent home by the medical staff, gave birth to a son on the bathroom floor of her apartment.

Denia Baez, 30, nine months pregnant with her fourth child, went to Brigham and Women's saying she felt ill and was bleeding slightly. However, hospital staff determined that she didn't have the strong, regular contractions that indicate the final phases of labor, and sent her home, she told the Boston Herald from her hospital bed.

Baez stepped out of the bathtub at home, felt labor pains and told her husband, Cesarin Arias, 29, that the baby was coming. Shortly, Jeremy Arias was born on the bathroom floor.

Baez and her 9-pound, 2-ounce baby were healthy and resting at Brigham and Women's, but the hospital's obstetrics chief said he would review her records and talk to Baez.

Flood waters hit hard

OH LISBON — Flood waters rushed through rural northeast Ohio over the weekend, ripping houses from their foundations and tearing a 65-foot deep crater into a road, authorities said.

A couple was killed in a crash on a rain-drenched highway, while a man whose home was carried off was found unharmed in a tree, authorities said.

Six inches of rain fell in just six hours from Friday night until Sunday morning, according to the National Weather Service.

About 4,000 people in the area do not have electricity, and the town of Lisbon does not have water because several major water lines broke in the storm.



Big breakfast meal

Fairgoers view a giant bagel that was created by Bruegger's Bagels at the annual New York State Fair in Geddes, N.Y. The bagel weighed 866 pounds, measured six feet in diameter and required a small crane to hoist it out of its custom-built oven.



Sunset juggler

Street performer Chet Mitchell, of Paradise, Mich., juggles as the sun sets on vacationers and local residents at the celebration of the sunset during the Petoskey Festival on the Bay in Michigan.



Discount shopper

Sara Bertrand, 8, left, bounces an exercise ball as she waits in line to go for it with her mother, Linda Farish, right, at the state Department of General Services sale in Sacramento, Calif. The DGS is selling off surplus office equipment and computers, along with cars, espresso machines and baseball cards the state has accumulated over the years.



Beautiful view

A rainbow arches across the Columbia River Gorge to Oregon near Cape Horn, Wash.



A walk in the sun

A small child runs across a stone bridge at Colt State Park on Monday in Bristol, R.I. Visitors enjoyed the sun and cool bay breezes at the park.



One potato, two potato

Manuel Ramirez removes debris from the potato conveyor belt during the first day of harvest at the Martin Farms in Fort Hall, Idaho. The Granger-russet potatoes are destined to be made into french fries.



Steeple makeover

Randy Fish, left, Gary Talbot, top right, and Al Fauteux paint the steeple of United Church of Christ in Keene, N.H. The crew works for Al Fauteux Roofing and Steeplejack of Keene.

Landlord charged

NY ITHACA — A college student called police after discovering a pinhole camera in the bathroom of the apartment she shared with three women, and now her landlord is charged with unlawful surveillance.

David A. Church, 44, of Ithaca, faces four counts of unlawful video surveillance, a felony that can draw up to four years in prison.

Church owns several rental properties near Cornell University.

Police said they searched two other apartments and found two pinhole cameras and several video recordings of at least four students.

Biplane crash kills 1

WI PORT EDWARDS — A biplane giving rides for a fund-raiser in central Wisconsin crashed upside down in a river Saturday morning, killing a Michigan woman, authorities said.

The 1941 Stearman biplane's landing gear struck power lines before it crashed into about 3 feet of water in the Wisconsin River, said Wood County Sheriff's Sgt. Tim Ward.

A 39-year-old passenger visiting the Wisconsin Rapids area with her husband, children and mother was killed.

Pilot Mark Strub, 42, was unable to free the woman and ran a half-mile to a local paper mill to call for help, Sheriff Kurt Heuer said.

Strub was taken to an area hospital, but did not appear to be injured or under the influence, Ward said.

The Federal Aviation Administration was investigating the accident.

Inmate escapes

VA DANVILLE — A Danville prisoner dumped his inmate clothes in a garbage bin and walked off a work crew wearing only a T-shirt, boxer shorts and work boots, authorities said.

Danville Sheriff's Maj. Ronnie Ball said Michael Dean Turner, 25, was last seen getting into a two-door, gray-green Toyota Corolla.

Turner was awaiting transfer to the Department of Corrections after his July conviction for attempting to sell cocaine. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison, with five years suspended on the condition that he spend one year on probation.

He could be charged with felony escape, punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$2,500 fine.

Search warrant voided

AK ANCHORAGE — Police cannot execute a search warrant in a person's home for possession of less than 4 ounces of marijuana, the Alaska Court of Appeals ruled.

The court ruled in the case of Leo Richardson Crocker Jr., who was charged with controlled substance misconduct after police, acting on a tip, searched his home and found marijuana and growing equipment.

A lower court ruled the search warrant that led to the arrest should have never been issued and suppressed the evidence against

Crocker. The appeals court agreed.

To execute a search warrant, police must have reason to believe the amount of marijuana exceeds 4 ounces or is being used in connection with a crime, the appeals court said.

Attorney General Gregg Renkes said the ruling could hamstring police efforts to stop marijuana growers. He planned to appeal to the state Supreme Court.

Bars can't bet on poker

CT HARTFORD — Bars betting on poker tournaments to bring in some extra cash will have to stop. The state Division of Special Revenue has issued a statement saying the tournaments violate state laws. Under state regulations, gambling is classified as a criminal misdemeanor unless all the players can prove they are friends or co-workers who see each other away from poker tables.

Bank lawsuit settled

SC SPARTANBURG — Elizabeth Davis, whose parents were killed in a Greer bank robbery last year, settled her lawsuit with Blue Ridge Savings Bank. Details of the settlement weren't released. Davis claimed the bank, located in a mobile home, failed to meet security requirements and failed to warn customers of risks. Blue Ridge employee Sylvia Holtzclaw also was killed in the robbery. No one was charged in the deaths.

GUILTY plea in murder

ND BISMARCK — A man who called police to confess to a 1990 killing has pleaded guilty to murder. Edward Reitan, 51, may face a 30-year sentence. Authorities say Reitan called the sheriff's office in May from a phone across the street to turn himself in for the 1990 killing of Driscoll farmer Robin Enckson.

Reitan was arrested after describing the crime in detail to investigators.

Free tuition for students

AZ TUCSON — The Arizona Board of Regents authorized the state's three public universities to award free tuition to high school students who score high on the state's graduation test. High school juniors must exceed expectations in math, reading and writing or exceed standard on two and meet standards on the third.

Students also would have to meet existing honors endorsement criteria.

Police chief sworn in

HI HONOLULU — Boise Correa was sworn in as the new Honolulu police chief.

Correa, 58, is the ninth chief in HPD history and replaces Lee Donohue, who retired July 1 after a 40-year career.

Correa has held the rank of assistant chief since 1998, overseeing patrol operations and the Traffic Division.

Correa, who's 6-foot-6 and 255 pounds, was signed by the NFL's Cleveland Browns in 1970 but changed his mind and decided to become a police officer.

Stories and photos from wire services.

Horoscope

The first day of the month starts fittingly with the moon in the first sign of the zodiac. There's a sense that all is fresh and new under the Aries lunar influence, and we've the energy of spring again, even though the weather tells us otherwise. Be a dowsy-eyed admirer of someone or a giddy fan. Let your curiosity lead you into new worlds.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (September 1).

This month, you'll feel like you're in a flow, and it's easier to lucrative decisions. October is highly romantic. Travel will be a welcome break from your hard work. Moves are favored before the new year. You stumble onto a new way to make more money in July/December. A Capricorn or Sagittarius love changes your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

Modesty doesn't serve you well now. Your prospects multiply when you make your good points known. Loved ones may seem more demanding — or is it that you're withholding? Consider how available you really are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

You're feeling quite in control, which is why the usual frustrations (waiting in lines, being on hold and so on) only add fuel to your fire. Take advantage of this wave of confidence by making a romantic gesture.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

When someone speaks to you, make that person the most important thing going on in the moment. On a spiritual level, you are what you believe you are, so you may as well believe more.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

An assertion about the past is not an answer for the future. No matter how you did things before, this is a new day, and you could potentially become an entirely different person, with new habits and, it follows, new results.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

You're very charismatic, but understanding how far you can take this influence

is key. The world will do as you do, not as you say today. If you want a loved one to make a change, model that desired behavior for all to see.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Your special projects will go through many stages, so don't lose heart.

Warning: hopes will only drain your energy. Prevent this by doing mental exercises to self into an optimistic state — it's worth the time it takes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

You stiffen up on your self-discipline, and the results show right away. Being certain about what you want is half the battle. People from the past will cross your mind. It's lucky to get in touch, especially if things ended badly.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Not knowing is half the fun today — find it. Those looking for work could find it with the help of an excellent recommendation. Singles who stop looking for a soul mate will find someone really cool.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

In order to increase the odds that an important change will occur, you must believe that transformation is possible and participate fully. Business deals could wind up in a less than satisfying way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

It's difficult to know what to want out of a complex relationship. Take a different approach if necessary, but don't give up! There's a chance to form an alliance or join a group. Your power increases with the more people you know.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

You're like a child at a magic show, obsessed with how it all comes together — really! It's time for being thorough and thinking of all the things that the average person wouldn't be concerned about.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

It always feels validating to be right, but really, what is the point? It's an ego-based need that probably will not drive a situation forward. The only way progress can be made is by fixing things, no matter who is right.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



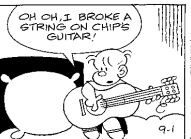
Zits



Cathy



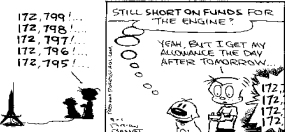
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



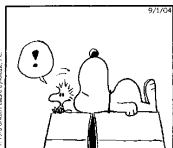
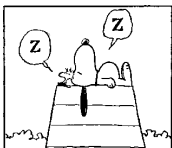
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fortrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



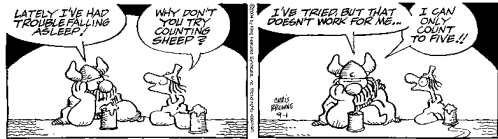
Blondie



Dilbert



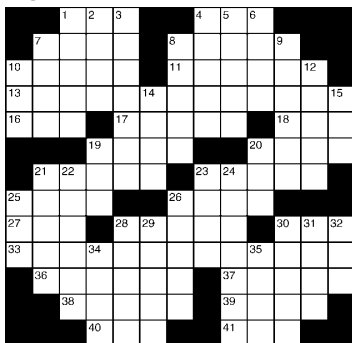
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Sleep phemon, for short
- 4 Stashed
- 7 Malt-shop order
- 8 "Sinkin"
- 10 Unemotional
- 11 Does some tailoring
- 13 Repeatedly
- 16 Desiccate
- 17 Cheese (Sp.)
- 18 Forefront
- 19 Attila's crew
- 20 Celtic legend
- 21 Chihuahua, e.g.
- 23 Light yellow color
- 25 Stage show
- 26 Rolling Stones guitarist
- 27 First name of 26-Across
- 28 Memorize
- 30 Shriver of tennis
- 33 Definitely
- 36 Water down
- 37 Take five
- 38 Shows chutzpah
- 39 Paradise
- 40 Scratch

Down

- 1 Spacious
- 2 Actress McClurg
- 3 Rhesus monkey
- 4 Swiss cheese
- 5 Opening remarks
- 6 Pair's air
- 7 Commotion
- 8 Calendar info
- 9 Miscellaneous facts
- 10 Norm (Abbr.)
- 12 Intelligent
- 14 Monetary resource
- 15 Conclusion
- 19 "Yo!"
- 20 Stratum
- 21 Fair
- 22 Offensive
- 23 "Star Trek: TNG" lieutenant
- 24 Esteemed
- 25 Expert
- 26 Tests the waters
- 28 Jenna and
- 29 Barbara's mom
- 29 Computer key
- 30 Loses color
- 31 Attorney
- 32 A score of Lills
- 34 Biblical kingdom
- 35 Make over

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-1

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GRRQAANBF NB OXHNBF
FGG, CGQ KNFLJ ISAHX XI

JLS JXA ZNJBSII.

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Appliances 025

Country, Okinawa - 2 Sider Microwave oven with extra heat for just starting out. Selling for \$450.00. Call 625-0304.

Foster, Okinawa - For Sale 2 burner. Bought new for \$200.00. Selling for \$75.00. Please email: cshen@stripes.com or call 646-5259 for interest.

Kadena, Okinawa - Japanese microwave oven with extra heat. Toaster, bread maker, available for \$200.00. Call Jason or Mikako at 645-6151.

Kadena, American style Whirlpool Electric Stove. Available for \$200.00. Call Jason or Mikako at 645-6151.

Kadena, Okinawa - E-mail: kysch@stripes.com or call: 646-5259 for interest.

Announcements 040

-FREE-

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Country, Okinawa - For Sale: Whirlpool 100 cubic foot chest freezer. \$1,425.00 (1425) 100. 35.00. Am. storage capacity 500 lbs. approximately 1 year. Very, very, very clean. \$150.00. Call 633-8453 for sale.

Kadena, Okinawa - Kinkora Washer & Dryer, in like new condition. Bought in Japan. Selling for \$200.00. Call 633-8453 for sale.

Kadena, Okinawa - Kinkora Washer & Dryer, in like new condition. Bought in Japan. Selling for \$200.00. Call 633-8453 for sale.

Kadena, Okinawa - Kinkora Washer & Dryer, in like new condition. Bought in Japan. Selling for \$200.00. Call 633-8453 for sale.

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Bryant jury selection begins

BY JON SACHE

The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colo. — Prospective jurors in the Kobe Bryant rape case were asked their feelings on racial prejudice, interracial relationships, marital infidelity and justice for the rich and famous in an 82-item questionnaire released Monday.

The potential jurors filled out the surveys Friday and lawyers began questioning them individually behind closed doors Monday after District Judge Terry Ruckriegle rejected a request to let the media listen in.

Ruckriegle said he wanted the prospective jurors to feel they could answer questions about potentially embarrassing topics without scrutiny from the media. He said the prospective jurors' right to privacy and Bryant's right to a fair trial outweigh the First Amendment right of access.

Bryant, 26, who appeared at the courthouse Monday, has pleaded not guilty to felony sexual assault, saying he had consensual sex with a then-19-year-old

employee at a Vail-area resort last summer.

If convicted, the Los Angeles Lakers star could get four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation, and a fine of up to \$750,000.

Prospective jurors were asked about their impressions of pro basketball players and whether they believe wealthy people are treated better by the courts.

The questionnaire asks candidates how they feel about interracial relationships, whether they have had "any negative experience with an African American" and whether they are biased against mental health professionals.

It also asks whether they have been "affected by or involved in" marital infidelity.

Bryant is a married father of one. He is black; his accuser is white.

Richard Gabriel, a Los Angeles-based trial consultant with Decision Analysis, said the questionnaire probably does not provide an accurate glimpse of arguments that will come up at trial.

"It probably has more to do with what one side anticipates the other side's themes and issues are going to be and wanting to clearly find out if people are going to be amenable to it," he said.

The jury pool consists of 276 Eagle County residents — 205 who filled out questionnaires Friday and were called back for more questioning, and 71 who were added on Monday.

Jury selection will be private until at least Wednesday, when reporters will be able to watch through closed-circuit television. By then, the jury pool will probably have been whittled down considerably.

Opening statements are expected Sept. 7.

Prosecutors and defense lawyers argued against opening the questioning to the media, saying potential jurors might be inhibited in answering questions.

Media lawyer Steve Zansberg noted Bryant's right to a fair trial but said the media and the public have a right to access under the First Amendment. The judge, however, disagreed.

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2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

U.S. triumphs temerely by some disappointments

By JAIME ARON
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — By all accounts, the United States had a great Olympics.

Americans won 103 medals, more than in Sydney or Atlanta. Michael Phelps put on a show for the ages, capped by a wonderful lesson in sportsmanship. Paul Hamm offered a tremendous reminder about never giving up.

The amazing thing is, it could have been better.

Americans won just 35 gold medals, the fewest since Montreal, 28 years ago. Phelps fell short of the goal he set and \$1 million bonus he craved. And Hamm is still defending the legitimacy of his triumph.

So while Athens will go down as one of the best Summer Games for the red, white and blue, don't put it at the top of the list.

These great Olympics could have been superb. But something always got in the way.

Look at Phelps. He won eight medals, something no American and only one other Olympian had done. The let-down was that two were bronze. Had they been gold, he would've met his dream of breaking the record of seven golds won by Mark Spitz in 1972 — and collected a \$1 million bonus from a sponsor.

"I can't say enough about what an honor it to even have the opportunity to attempt that," Phelps said Sunday.

Phelps could have closed his games by swimming the butterfly leg of the 400-meter relay. Instead, he gave his spot to teammate and rival Ian Crocker, not because he was tired but so they could both get a medal. They did. Gold.

Schoolteachers and coaches can get a lot of mileage out of that one. They also can tell kids about Hamm, who went from a vault landing that sent him tumbling



U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps tied an Olympic record with eight medals, and capped off his Games with a lesson in sportsmanship by giving up his spot in the final relay to teammate/rival Ian Crocker.



CHICAGO TRIBUNE/RET

American wrestler Rulon Gardner leaves his shoes on the mat to symbolize his retirement from the sport after he claimed a bronze medal in the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Greece.

onto the judges' table — and into 12th place — to winning the all-around gold with two near-perfect performances.

He was hardly able to save the comeback, though, because of a scoring squabble that has outlasted the Olympic flame. The cauldron was extinguished Sunday night, but the Court of Arbitration for Sport headed back to Lausanne, Switzerland, and Hamm is expected to have the top three reshuffled with his gymnast on top.

The list of U.S. champions includes the expected, like Phelps and the softball and women's basketball squads; the hoped for, like Hamm and fellow gymnast Carly Patterson; and pleasant surprises, like Mariel Zagunis winning the first American gold in fencing since 1904.

More notable are the names that are missing — most prominently the men's basketball team that has been unbeaten at the Olympics since adding NBA players in 1992. The squad formerly known as the Dream Team got bronze.

U.S. divers would have loved one of those. They were shut out for the first time in 92 years.

American boxers had their worst Olympics in 56 years, winning just two medals. At first one was gold, though, the last by the squad since 1996.

In track, medal sweeps in the men's 200 and 400 meters were great. Silver in the men's 400 relay and a disqualification in the women's race weren't. The men had won seven of the last nine times they entered. The women had won four of the last five.

The male track team ended up with its most medals since 1992. The women had their fewest since '76, hindered by having left some of their best sprinters home in the wake of a steroid scandal.

There also was turnover within the team. Justin Gatlin, Allyson Felix and Lauryn Williams were among a new wave of Olympians

who sparked, while established stars like Gail Devers, Allen Johnson and Stacy Dragila failed to even make any finals. Marion Jones went from five medals in Sydney to a goose-egg in Greece.

Andy Roddick, Martina Navratilova and Venus Williams left Athens with memories, not medals. The most successful American tennis player here ended up being Marj Fish, whose silver tops anything he's done at a Grand Slam event.

Rulon Gardner, the best story in Sydney, wasn't able to defend his wrestling gold medal. He wasn't too upset, though. The bronze he won was just as precious because of what he'd been through since 2000: a near-fatal snowmobile wreck that cost him a toe, a motorcycle crash and a dislocated wrist playing basketball.

Then there are the ones that got away, like shot putter Adam Nelson tying for first but getting silver on the tiebreaker because he fouled on all of his other throws.

And how about the 50-meter, three-position rifle event? Matt Emmons took a commanding lead into his final blast, then shot the wrong target. The govt sunk him to eighth and moved Army Maj. Michael Anti up to silver. Anti would've gotten gold if he hadn't been penalized for firing too many shots in an earlier round.

As with any Games, this was the last hurrah for many champions.

Swimmer Jenny Thompson, who won two silvers to bump her American-best career medal total to 12, isn't likely to be back for a fifth games.

Dawn Staley is calling it quits after leading the women's basketball team to three straight golds. And the five stalwarts on the women's soccer team — Mia Hamm, Julie Foudy, Brandi Chastain, Joy Fawcett and Kristine Lilly — are also going out in golden style.

"It's not about the medal," Hamm said, "it's about the dream."

ATHENS, Greece — The stars and flogs of the Olympics:

Stars

■ Michael Phelps won eight medals, tying the record for most at one Olympics with six golds and two bronzes.

■ Hicham El Guerrouj of Morocco became the first man in 80 years to sweep the Olympic mid-distance races, winning the 5,000 and outstanding rival Bernard Lagat of Kenya in the 1,500.

■ U.S. gymnast Paul Hamm won the all-around, then endured a controversy involving a South Korean whose routine was incorrectly scored by judges. Hamm added high bar and team silvers.

■ Carly Patterson became the first American woman to win the gymnastics all-around since Mary Lou Retton in 1984. She also got silvers in the team competition and on the beam.

■ The U.S. softball team — led by Crystl Bustos, Jennie Finch, Cat Osterman and Lisa Fernandez — was dominant on its gold-medal march, outscoring opponents 51-1.

■ The U.S. women's basketball team — a star-studded lineup that included Dawn Staley, Lisa Leslie and Sheryl Swoopes — beat Australia 74-63 for gold.

■ Andre Ward won the light heavyweight gold, one of only two U.S. boxing medals.

■ The U.S. men's elite eight crew set a world record in the semifinals, then ended a 40-year American drought in rowing gold medals.

■ Mariel Zagunis of the United States won gold in saber — the first for the U.S. fencing team since 1904 and first medal ever for the women.

■ Iraq's soccer team made an unexpected run to the bronze-medal game, losing 1-0 to Italy.

■ U.S. sprinter Justin Gatlin held off the field to win the 100 meters in 9.85 seconds to claim the title of the world's fastest man.

■ Jeremy Wariner won the 400-meter run, leading a U.S. sweep with Otis Harris and Derrick Brew.

■ Abby Wambach's 10-year header lifted the United States to a 1-0 win over Brazil for soccer gold in the last game for World Cup champion veterans Mia Hamm, Julie Foudy and Joy Fawcett.

Stars and flogs of Athens

■ Kelly Holmes of Britain surged to win the 1,500 meters gold, clinching a rare middle-distance Olympic double after winning the 800.

■ Inna Yermakova of Russia set a world record in the pole vault for the fourth time this year, clearing 16-10 to win gold in a duel with teammate Svetlana Feofanova.

■ U.S. beach volleyball stars Misty May and Kerri Walsh won gold without losing a set.

■ Israeli windsurfer Gal Fridman won sailing's Mistral class, his nation's first Olympic gold medal.

Flogs

■ Marion Jones left Athens without a medal after a botched hand-off in the 400-meter relay and a mediocre fifth-place long jump. She won five medals four years ago in Sydney.

■ The U.S. men's basketball team lost its opening game to Puerto Rico by 19 points and added two more losses en route to a bronze medal.

■ Greek sprinters Kostas Kenters and Katerina Thanou were disgraced by allegations they tried to avoid a doping test, then hours later were involved in a suspicious motorcycle wreck.

■ World champion Perdita Felicien of Canada was in tears on the track after slamming into a hurdle and knocking Russian Irina Shevchenko out of the 100-meter hurdles.

■ After winning gold in the 50-meter pole event, U.S. shooter Matt Emmons blew a great chance for another gold when he fired at the wrong target in three positions rifle.

■ Russian gymnastics diva Svetlana Khorkina fell off the uneven bars, leaving her without an Olympic gold in her specialty event.

■ American Alan Johnson, a four-time world champion and 1996 Olympic gold medalist, crashed in the second round of the 110 hurdles and failed to advance.

■ At least six medals — three golds — were revoked because of doping.

■ The Athens Olympics were hit by numerous scoring and judging disputes, affecting gymnastics, sports, equestrian, rowing and fencing.

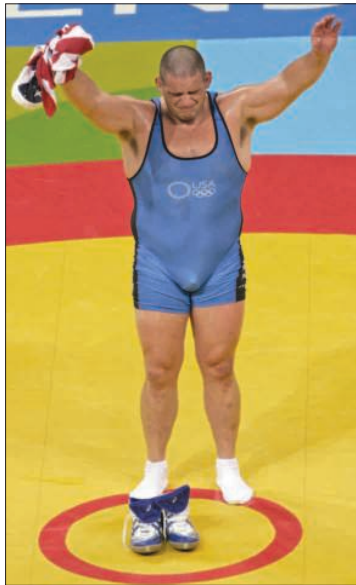
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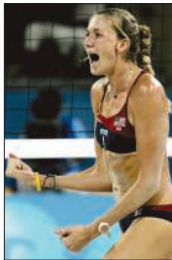
Carly Patterson became the first American woman since Mary Lou Retton in 1984 to win the all-around title. She also won two silvers.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Golden moments



Rulon Gardner waves after taking off his shoes to symbolize his retirement after defeating Sajad Barzi, of Iran, during the Greco-Roman 120kg wrestling bronze medal bout. The American heavyweight ended a career that included a victory over the invincible Russian Alexander Karelin in the gold medal match at the 2000 Sydney Games.



The USA's Kerri Walsh teamed with Misty May to roll through the women's beach volleyball competition. They didn't lose a set en route to winning the gold medal at one of Athen's wildest venues.



Gold-medalist Carly Patterson watches the American flag rise during the medal ceremony for the individual all-around final. She is the first American to win the event since Mary Lou Retton in 1984.



Jason Gatlin reacts after winning the gold medal in the 100-meters. He was a triple medalist and helped the U.S. rule the track.



Crystal Bustos celebrates as she rounds the bases after hitting the first of her two homers in the gold medal game.



Michael Phelps displays one of the six gold medals he won. Phelps didn't top the seven won by Mark Spitz, but the swimming phenom still was the talk of the Games during the first week.



Members of the American men's eight boat, with coxswain Pete Cipollone at right, celebrate after they won the gold medal, the first in 40 years.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS



Deena Kastor of the United States celebrates her bronze medal in the marathon, the last lap of which was run around the Panatheniac Stadium, the marble stadium that hosted the first Olympic Games in 1896. "It's incredible," Kastor said. "I was in tears the whole last lap."

MIAMI HERALD/KRT



Mariel Zagunis jubilates after she took the gold medal in the women's individual sabre competition — the first for the U.S. fencing team since 1904 and first medal ever for the women.

AP



Mia Hamm, left, and Brazil's Tania fight for a header during the gold medal soccer game. Hamm and the other five stalwarts on the American team said goodbye to their sport with gold medals.

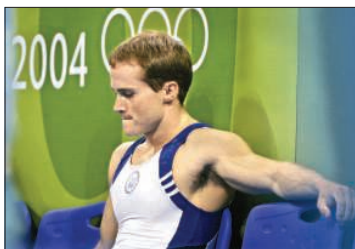
ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/AP



Amanda Beard, of the United States, reacts after swimming to a gold medal in the 200-meter breaststroke. Beard also won two silver medals.

Andre Dirrell, right, from Flint, Mich., bows after defeating Cuba's Yordani Despaigne Herrera during the middleweight boxing quarterfinals. Dirrell won the bronze medal. Light heavyweight Andre Ward was the only American boxer to win gold.

AP photos



Gymnast Paul Hamm celebrates with trainer Don Rackey, right, after winning the gold medal in the men's all-around. The rest of the Olympics didn't go as well for Hamm, who sat glumly after his routine on the pommel horse during the men's gymnastics individual apparatus finals. Hamm placed sixth in the competition, and had to answer questions about the all-around judging.

AP photos



2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Beijing buildup under way

China out to make 2008 Games most organized, competitive ever

BY NIKO PRICE

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Even before the athletes claimed all the gold in the Athens Games, the buildup to the 2008 Beijing Olympics was in full swing.

They could be the most elaborate, best organized and most competitive Games ever. They could also be the toughest yet for the United States.

"It's almost like a buildup to a war," said Bob Condon, a spokesman for the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The countdown to China began Sunday, when Beijing's mayor took possession of the Olympic flag during an eight-minute pageant at the Athens closing ceremony tying ancient Olympia to the Great Wall of China. Directing was Zhang Yimou, famous for his visually lush movies including "Raise the Red Lantern" and the Oscar-nominated "Hero."

China wants to show that it is going all out, and this is a country that knows how to go all out. After all, it built the Great Wall. It recently remodeled its largest cities, sacrificing entire neighborhoods for six-lane avenues and skyscrapers. In 1958, it implemented a misguided industrialization plan with such fervor that 40 million people starved to death.

Now, after a two-decade shift from closed socialist fiefdom to toward global economic powerhouse, China plans to use the Olympics to demonstrate that the world's most populous nation is a surging force to be reckoned with — and not only in sports.

"The Games will be a kind of vehicle to showcase China opening up," said Wang Wei, secretary-general of the organizing committee. "China is the biggest developing country, the fastest-growing economy, and the Olympics enjoy the greatest popular support in China."

Condon put it more simply: "This is the biggest coming-out party in history."

Organizers are trying to calm concerns over their nation's human rights record — which drew protests in Athens — and pledging not to stifle the 20,000 journalists expected to journey to Beijing.

To be a success, China believes, everything will have to be perfect.

In sharp contrast to Greece, which finished Olympic venues only days before the Games began, China drew up plans to complete everything two years early. A massive propaganda machine is spreading awareness of



Chinese construction workers carry a water hose past the Olympic rings on the streets of Beijing, China, on June 7. Beijing will host the 2008 Olympic Games. Unlike Athens, which was plagued by delays and finished some of its Olympic venues days before the start of the Games, Beijing is planning on finishing two years early. "If you need a million men to finish a stadium, you make a phone call and they're there overnight," said Olympic documentary filmmaker Bud Greenspan, who has worked closely with China's Olympic organizers.



Among China's goals is domination of international sports and the Olympic medal count. Liu Xiang's gold medal in the men's 110-meter hurdle Friday is evidence that they're making progress toward that goal.

sports and Olympic traditions among China's 1.3 billion people. The government is falling over itself to prepare infrastructure — even changing laws to please IOC officials.

"If you need a million men to finish a stadium, you make a phone call and they're there over-

night," said Bud Greenspan, the Olympic documentary filmmaker, who has worked closely with Chinese organizers.

The Chinese people are no less passionate about the Games than their government. When the Olympic torch came through China in June on its way to

Greece, Wang said, more than 1 million people turned out to see it pass.

"The celebration, the atmosphere was great," he said. "Just imagine when the Beijing opening ceremony takes place. It's going to be fantastic!"

The government recently revised its construction plans, delaying them to finish one year before the Games. The reason? The International Olympic Committee, accustomed to pressuring host nations to speed up their efforts, suggested China slow down to avert a cash-flow problem.

To the dismay of other nations, the IOC cannot offer such guidance to China's sports machine. It is roaring ahead with a single goal: to destroy all competition in 2008. The United States, the medals winner in Athens, is enemy No. 1.

"The Chinese buildup is the most massive in sports history," Condon said. "They may be so good that they could put the medals race out of sight."

China participated in 14 of 28 sports in Sydney. In Athens, it competed in 26. Its goal for 2008 is to enter athletes in every sport — athletes who can win.

"They're going to swamp every-

Summer Olympics host cities

1896	Athens
1900	Paris
1904	St. Louis
1906	Athens
1908	London
1912	Stockholm
1920	Antwerp
1924	Paris
1928	Amsterdam
1932	Los Angeles
1936	Berlin
1948	London
1952	Helsinki
1956	Melbourne
1960	Rome
1964	Tokyo
1968	Mexico City
1972	Munich
1976	Montreal
1980	Moscow
1984	Los Angeles
1988	Seoul
1992	Barcelona
1996	Atlanta
2000	Sydney
2004	Athens
2008	Beijing

body," Greenspan said with a chuckle.

He Huixian, a vice chairman of the Chinese Olympic Committee, said his nation has stepped up training for young people in sports like swimming and track and field — competitions in which many medals are awarded but China has traditionally fielded weak teams.

Those efforts have already begun to pay off. Look no further than China's two gold medals in track and field Friday.

Other sports powers — the United States, Russia, Germany and Australia — also are targeting resources to boost athlete training, but China's push is more efficient because the government funds and exerts strong control over sports.

Children are tested at a young age to determine if their bodies will develop appropriately for a certain sport, then are placed into government-funded sports schools that have demanding training schedules but offer major perks for the children's families.

The head of the Russian Olympic delegation observed that the Chinese system is really the old Soviet system, and "they just took it from us."

China's delegation to Athens even sacrificed some older athletes in favor of less qualified younger ones, so they could gain Olympic experience that will help them triumph in 2008.

"If the home team doesn't perform well, you don't have a good atmosphere in the Games," Wang said.

Asked whether that meant China would steamroll over the competition, Wang gave a knowing smile and a humble response.

"No need to be frightened," he said.

Bob Condon

U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman

Niko Price is correspondent-at-large for The Associated Press.

“The Chinese buildup is the most massive in sports history. They may be so good that they could put the medals race out of sight.”

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

From scandal to ambush, Athens had it all

ATHENS, Greece

It began with a scandal in the sprints and ended with an ambush in the marathon.

The first rocked the host nation. The second startled everyone else.

All it proved is that for grand stages and stunning surprises, there is still nothing in sports quite like the Olympics.

Only in the Games could U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps win six golds and two bronze, and leave people wondering what might have been. Then he did something almost as impressive. Phelps handed his spot on the 400-meter medley relay team to friend and rival Ian Crocker, took a seat in the stands, and cheered his heart out.

"I wanted to come in here and I wanted to win one gold medal. And I did it the first night," Phelps said. "So, from then on out I was here to have fun and... represent my country as best as I could."

Nowhere else could Moroccan Hicham El Guerrouj, the greatest middle-distance runner of all time, leave everybody murmuring about what should have been. He won the 1,500 gold after failing twice before in the Games, and then added the 5,000—a double that hadn't been accomplished since Paavo Nurmi in 1924.

Only at the Olympics could U.S. gymnast Paul Hamm go home with a gold wondering what still might be.

And only here could two dozen athletes get busted for drugs—more than twice the number at

Jim Litke



Sydney four years ago—and have it widely hailed as a success.

"These were the Games where it became increasingly difficult to cheat and where clean athletes were better protected," IOC chief Jacques Rogge said during the closing ceremony Sunday night.

Against all odds, everything came together spectacularly at the last minute for the Athens organizers. Precious few athletes, however, were so blessed by such karma.

Members of the U.S. men's basketball team, by reputation the biggest lock at the start of the Games, stumbled over their size 15 sneakers and had to scramble for bronze. The win that knocked them out propelled Argentina to the top of the medal stand, but their countrymen were probably too busy celebrating to notice. Only in a soccer-mad land like Argentina would certain gold in their national pastime trump the biggest upset of the Games.

Upset is how the Greeks felt when hometown heroes Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou skipped a drug test on the eve of the opening ceremony to take a mysterious midnight motorcycle ride that ended with both forced to withdraw from the Games.

U.S. track star Marion Jones was fortunate to stay ahead of the drug testers, but she couldn't say

the same about the competition. She was soundly beaten in the long jump, then undone in the 400-meter relay by a botched pass of the baton.

"It exceeded my wildest dreams," she said afterward, "in a negative sense."

Brazilian marathoner Vanderlei de Lima knew exactly how she felt. He was leading the race with about 10 minutes and three miles to go when a defrocked Irish priest in a bizarre costume stepped onto the course and shoved de Lima into the crowd. De Lima got back into the race, but was eventually caught and passed by the winner, Stefano Baldini of Italy.

"I'm not going to cry forever about the incident, although it broke my concentration," de Lima said, but I managed to finish and the bronze medal in such a difficult marathon is also a great achievement."

Not everyone was treated so cruelly.

Greco-Roman wrestler Rulon Gardner couldn't duplicate the drama he staged in Sydney, but at least he left on his terms. With tears rolling down his face and an American flag cradled in his arms, Gardner took off his shoes and left them in the middle of the mat as eloquent a retirement ceremony as there is in sports.

"I came back and won a medal. Even though it's bronze, I have no regrets because I gave 100 percent in every match," Gardner said.

His leaving was offset by arrivals every bit as inspiring.

Chinese sprinter Liu Xiang

won the 110-meter hurdles to become his nation's first gold medalist in track and equaled the world record of 12.91 seconds in the bargain. It was the centerpiece of a haul of 32 golds—second only to the United States' total of 35—that sent a shiver down the spine of every nation headed for Beijing in 2008, when the Olympics become home games for the world's most populous nation.

Some nations, though, were too busy shivering with joy to notice.

Windsurfer Gal Fridman won Israel's first gold. Ahmed Al Maklout, a wealthy sheik, gave the United Arab Emirates its first gold in trap shooting. Taiwan got its first in taekwondo; the Dominican Republic in men's 400-meter hurdles. Chile in tennis and Georgia in judo.

Winless in nine previous Summer Games, Paraguay took silver in men's soccer. Eritrea, a nation that didn't exist a dozen years ago, won bronze in the 10,000 meters, courtesy of Zeremay Tadesse.

The Games returned to Athens after 108 years on the road, but some things never changed.

Among the athletes stripped of their medals was Russian shot putter Irina Korzhanchenko. She tested positive for steroids, a case that was particularly distressing since she became the first woman to win a gold at Ancient Olympia, the hallowed site where the Olympics were born in 776 B.C.

A scandal of a more recent vintage took its head when the International Gymnastics Federation, known as FIG, suspended three judges and acknowledged that South Korean Yang

Tae-young—who finished two places down the podium from Hamm in the closest all-around finish in Olympic history—should have been awarded more points for his routine based on the degree of difficulty.

Had he been given the correct score, Yang would have won the gold and Hamm the silver. But a review of Yang's performance also revealed those judges failed to detect a mistake in his routine that would have resulted in his being beaten by wider margin.

Showing incompetence knows no bounds, FIG boss Bruno Grandi then suggested Hamm give the gold to Yang to get the protesting South Koreans off his back. But they left Athens without satisfaction, awaiting a decision from the Court of Arbitration for Sport on an appeal.

"We did not want this misjudgment to be corrected. That was very clear from the beginning," said Jae Soon-yoo, spokeswoman for the South Korean delegation. "We are talking about our own rights, our own medal, not anyone else's."

The South Koreans drew on the precedent set by the IOC in the 2002 Salt Lake City Games, when another judging scandal resulted in a Canadian figure-skating pair being awarded a duplicate gold.

Whatever wounds the IOC hoped to close at the time, that move could turn out to be the start of an epidemic.

Not long after the marathon scandal broke, Brits argued it, too, would ask the arbitration panel for a duplicate gold.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at: jlitke@ap.org

For China's Olympic stars, payoff could be golden

BY STEPHANIE HOO

The Associated Press

BEIJING—How much is an Olympic gold medal worth? For China's newest sports stars, fresh from triumph in Athens and idolized by a sports-crazy public, the country's continuing rush to capitalism means they can cash in like never before.

China, in its best Olympic showing, won 32 gold medals in the Athens Games, second only to the United States. The surprise result earned high praise from China's government, which called on all Chinese to learn from the athletes.

"The excellent performance by China's athletes again shows the spirit of the Chinese nation's unremitting efforts to improve itself," the government said in a message broadcast repeatedly on state-run television.

"The motherland is proud of you, and the people are proud of you."

Yet even as China's communist rulers cast the Olympians as something akin to the selfless "iron workers" of its proletarian past, the country's market-oriented present means athletes are bound to profit heartily from their newfound hero status.

As China gears up to host the Olympics



China's Liu Xiang reacts as he wins the gold medal in the 110-meter hurdles. Liu reportedly will collect \$400,000 in government prizes after becoming the first Chinese man to win an Olympic track gold.

in Beijing in 2008, the power of the Olympic brand will only grow, marketers say.

"If nothing else, 2008 has created an opportunity that is frankly unprecedented,"

"The motherland is proud of you, and the people are proud of you."

Chinese government message

said Christopher Millward, chief executive of Millward Consultants in Beijing. "The inherent publicity of the Games has created that," he said, pointing to the endless cheerleading by China's completely state-controlled media.

For the stars of Athens, the central government has promised prizes of up to \$24,000 for Olympic medalists, and individual provinces also plan to rain cash on their local stars, the official People's Daily newspaper said in its online edition.

Yunnan, for example, will give weightlifter Zhang Guozheng \$180,000 for being the first from the province to capture Olympic gold.

Still to come are the commercial endorsements, speaking engagements and free merchandise that are par for the course in developed nations. Chinese motorcycle makers, property developers and

others already have announced gifts of their own, no strings attached.

Hurdling star Liu Xiang stands to earn the most of all, after becoming the first Chinese man to win gold in an Olympic track event. He was awarded the honor of carrying China's flag at the close of the Athens Games, after finishing first in the 110-meter hurdles by matching the world record time of 12.91 seconds.

Already, Liu is seen leaping from Nike sneaker ads. The People's Daily said Liu is set to collect \$400,000 just in government prizes. His commercial earnings could be several times that.

There is a flip side, however. Personal scandals can sour an athlete's earning power, and in China that can include running afoul of the government line.

"Universally, heroes of any nationality are human, too," Millward said.

The implication was that the Houston Rockets center had become too much of an individual, even too American, Millward said.

"The lines are being drawn," he added.

2004 ATHENS OLYMPICS

Greeks lower curtain on successful Games

BY EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — If anyone deserved a party, it was the people of Athens.

The flame went out on the Olympics during a closing ceremony Sunday night that honored the birthplace of the Games with an ebullient display of Greek pride and symbolism, a relief-filled celebration of the ancient and the new.

Famed Greek singer George Dalaras serenaded the crowd. Dancers danced, arms folded, legs kicking high, during an enactment of a traditional Greek wedding. Fireworks exploded over the stadium packed full with 70,000 fans who waved twinkling strobes they were given to light up the show.

Hundreds of athletes from many of the 202 countries that participated mingled in the center of the stadium and paraded their flags — Canadian and Swiss, American and Brazilian — around the floor. They were ringed by a cadre of security guards, and a white security blimp hovered overhead, just two of the strong reminders of how much the world has changed since the Sydney Games four years ago.

Later, the huge white torch that burned brightly over the stadium for 17 days was lowered, and symbolic remnants of the flame were passed to the people of Beijing, where the Games will be held in 2008.

China's capital city put on a short ceremony filled with a preview of what's to come. Chinese string instruments played and red-clad martial arts performers romped around the stage.

Elaborately clad women wearing head-dresses walked out on stilts. A giant, red lantern popped up and, while a young Chinese girl sang, a banner was unfurled that said "Welcome to Beijing."

China will have to put on quite a show to match Greece, a poor country that spent \$8.5 billion to bring the Games back to their home, and often wondered if the effort was worth it.

"The world discovered a new Greece," said Athens 2004 President Gianna Angelopoulos-Daskalaki, who made it all happen with her fierce determination to overcome construction delays and avoid international humiliation.



DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

Flagbearers from the Olympic nations enter the stadium during the closing ceremony on Sunday. Over 300 gold medals were awarded during the 19 days of the Olympics.

The three-week festival of sports was tumultuous, as expected, but not for the reasons most people anticipated.

Athens put the finishing touches on its Games with only days remaining — paint really was still drying in some places when the torch was lit. But the city put on a fantastic — and safe — show, much to the surprise of skeptics who fretted over the country's readiness and security issues almost from the day it was awarded the Games.

While Greece shone, the athletes, delegations and even the fans were not as well-behaved.

These Games were marred by doping scandals, booing in the stands and protests by the teams. The misbehavior extended right to the very end, when a man jumped out of the crowd and tackled Brazilian marathoner Vanderlei de Lima. He recovered, and finished third.

"I think the Olympic spirit prevailed, and I prevailed," de Lima said during a news conference, held in the bowels of the stadium while the ceremony rocked on above.

The complaints came in no fewer than six sports, most notably in gymnastics, where South Korea's protest of American



AP

U.S. rower Kent Smack carries flags from various nations during Sunday's ceremony.

Paul Hamm's all-around gold medal became one of a handful of unsavory stories that dominated the Games. Disgraced Greek sprint stars Kostas Kenteris and Katerina Thanou also played a role, and a record two dozen athletes were caught on doping cases.

On Sunday, though, it was time to celebrate the Olympic spirit and the Olympic



PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/ART

The Olympic Flame is passed to a child carrying a lantern during the closing ceremonies of the Athens Games on Sunday.

hosts that held the first Games in 776 B.C. and resurrected the modern-day version in 1896.

Athens was only one of the sites. The Games also made a cameo appearance in Olympia to watch the shot put, and to Marathon to stand on the spot where the race got its name.

Min Hamm was the U.S. flagbearer during this, the last of three medal-winning appearances for her at the Olympics.

In his closing remarks, International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge lauded Athens, a city that came close to having the Games taken away because of massive construction delays.

"You have won," Rogge said. "You have won by brilliantly meeting the tough challenge of holding the Games. These were unforgettable, dream Games."

Drama: Athens was perfect Olympic theater

DRAMA, FROM BACK PAGE

The electricity meant victories. The Americans dominated at the track, collecting an Athens-best 24 medals. Even better, none were caught using banned substances in the year of the burgeoning BALCO scandal.

The drug-free Americans weren't ugly, either. The U.S. athletes, after getting pre-Olympic instructions on proper decorum, behaved perfectly — as did their hosts. The Athens Games were a success by acclamation, as pretty as the blue skies above the Acropolis each sunny morning.

"It was incredible to come in here, to be so safe, to feel confident and relaxed," said Phelps, who stayed around an extra week for the closing ceremony. "I can't say how great the city of Athens has been."

Great? Yes. Perfect? That de-

scribed the American softball team.

The softballers, winning a gold for their recently widowed coach, did everything right in Athens, taking nine straight games while outscoring their opponents 51-1. It was their third consecutive Olympic title.

The ancient city did suffer some modern Olympic woes — doping problems (a record high of 23 cases, with six medals stripped), a gymnastics scoring mistake that left gold medalist Paul Hamm twisting in the wind, and angry protests over the later-cancelled visit of U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Few, however, could dispute International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge's contention that the Games were "splendid" and the security just "flawless."

That was vital in the first Sum-

mer Games since Sept. 11, 2001, with athletes competing under 202 flags. The sight of a blimp waving across the sky once signaled a sponsor's advertisement; now, it was part of a \$1.5 billion security plan.

But the attention turned quickly to the athletes after the opening ceremony.

There were disappointments: The men's basketball team, undefeated since NBA players joined the mix in 1992, went home with a bronze after losing three games in Athens with its youngest roster ever.

And track star Jones, the winner of five medals in Sydney, won nothing in Athens — losses that only intensified the speculation fueled by allegations she used steroids in Australia. A botched handoff in the 400-meter relay led to a disqualification for the American team, shortly after she failed to medal in the long jump.

Jones wept, too.

But the downers were overshadowed by the only-in-Athens moments, where the athletes of the 21st century enjoyed a bit of time travel.

In Ancient Olympia, where the games were born 28 centuries ago, American Adam Nelson won a silver in the shot put. Following the route first run by Pheidippides in 490 B.C., U.S. marathon runner Deena Kastor captured the bronze, running her last lap around the marble Panathinaiko Stadium that hosted the 1896 Games.

The Games ended in the new Olympic Stadium, the 72,000-seat facility designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, with a closing ceremony attended by thousands of Olympic athletes from around the world. The journey to Beijing is next for many of them.



AP

America's "Dream Team" wasn't its much-hyped group of NBA stars, but its softball team, which dominated Olympic competition on the way to a gold medal.

"It's amazing and it never gets old," said soccer player Kristine Lilly, herself a three-time Olympian. "It's an experience I'll cherish forever."

Turin facing questions on readiness for 2006

Winter Games host asked to speed up its preparations

BY ALAN ABRAHAMSON

Los Angeles Times

ATHENS, Greece — When the flame went out Sunday night at Olympic Stadium, the spotlight shifted immediately to the next edition of the Games, the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, which begin Feb. 10, 2006, not even 18 months from now.

It's hardly certain, officials said, that Turin—in Italian, Torino, the name the city will be called on NBC's Olympic telecasts—will be ready.

For public consumption, Olympic insiders express only modest concern. Behind the scenes, they are far more direct. Referring to the troubled preparation for the Athens Games—concerns over construction, transportation, security and cost overruns—a senior Olympic official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "We will remember this as the greatest, compared to Torino. Torino is [messed] up."

At the same time, Olympic officials also say the Turin Games

"We have asked our friends in Turin to accelerate preparations. We are sure they will deliver, but a sense of urgency is needed. It is the same thing we asked our Athens friends."

Jacques Rogge
IOC president

could—and should—set a new standard for style and other "look of the Games" issues, meaning the way the Olympic venues look in person and on television.

The Turin "look" is based on the "piazza" or city square, which chief organizer Valentino Castellani has described as the "perfect Italian metaphor for the Olympic Games—a place of passion and participation."

"A terrific idea," said Jean-Claude Killy, the three-time 1968 Grenoble Games skiing gold medalist who oversaw the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville, France, and now heads the International Olympic Committee's inspection team for Turin.

There are construction concerns in Turin, just as there were in Athens. For instance, will the bobsled track be built in time?

"We have asked our friends in Turin to accelerate preparations," Jacques Rogge, IOC president, said. "We are sure they will deliver, but a sense of urgency is needed. It is the same thing we asked our Athens friends."

A long-standing concern has been Turin's plan to split action between the city and the mountains an hour's drive away. The ice sports will be in Turin, the snow sports in the mountains. Will it work? It worked well in Salt Lake City and Nagano, Japan, less so in Lillehammer, Norway, and Albertville, France.

These Winter Games will be the first Olympics in Italy since the Summer Games in Rome in 1960, but much of the nation has welcomed their approach with a ho-hum attitude.

Turin is tucked into northwest Italy, away from Rome, Milan,



Jacques Rogge

wider support, the Olympic torch for the Turin Games relay will be presented next January—in Milan.

The relay will start Dec. 8, 2005—in Rome. The flame will travel throughout the country, in Palermo for Christmas, Naples for New Year's, Cortina d'Ampezzo—site of the 1956 Winter Games—on Jan. 26, 2006, the 50th anniversary of the opening ceremony there.

Perhaps most pressing for the Turin Games, however, are questions about the management structure, leadership abilities and the lack of business and sports experience at the top of the Turin 2006 organizing committee.

Unlike recent organizing committees—in Sydney in 2000, Salt Lake City in 2002, here in Athens—there is no sole undisputed chief executive. Key responsibilities are often shared by the committee's president, former Turin mayor Castellani; deputy president Evelina Christillin, and chief executive Paolo Rota.

"We are what we are," Christillin said here. "We cannot turn ourselves into movie stars."

"We are totally aware of our problems," she said, but pledged that things would work out, just as they did in Athens. "We are sure our Games will be good Games."

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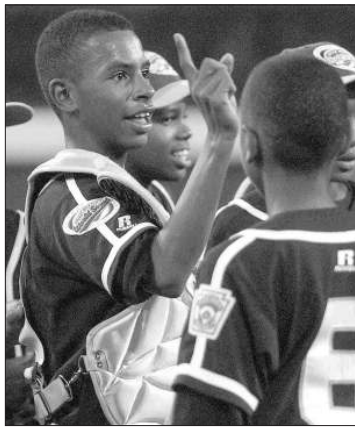
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The raised finger of Curacao catcher Rignol Rondel says it all after the team from the Caribbean beat California 5-2 on Sunday night to win the Little League World Series. It was Curacao's first tournament title.

Curacao tops Calif. for Little League title

BY DAN LEWERENZ

The Associated Press

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — Carlos Pineda looked shaky when he started with consecutive walks and then hit California's leadoff batter. But he got a lot better in a hurry.

Pineda struck out 11, and Jurickson Profar hit a two-run homer as Pabao Little League of Willemstad, Curacao, took an early lead and held on for a 5-2 victory over Conejo Valley of Thousand Oaks, Calif., in the Little League World Series championship on Sunday night.

Curacao coach Michelangelo Celestina said the early advantage was "very important, because it was the first time we were in a final game of the Little League World Series."

Teams from Curacao reached the international final game the previous three years, but lost each time to a team from Japan.

California scored both of its runs in the top of the sixth, and had runners on first and third with two outs. James Brady grounded to first baseman Christopher Garcia, who won a race to the bag for the final out.

It was the first Little League title for the tiny island in the Netherlands Antilles, and the first for any team from the Caribbean.

The victory set off wild celebrations in Willemstad. Fireworks exploded after the last out as islanders watched on big-screen televisions. Caravans of cars snaked through the streets honking horns on the Caribbean island, while some revelers took to the streets on foot, dancing and partying.

Curacao (6-0) never trailed, going up 1-0 in the bottom of the

first on Schoop's RBI single. Facing a 1-1 count, Profar homered to left field — his first home run of the series — to make it 3-0.

"I did all the things good I wanted to do — hitting, defense," Profar said through an interpreter.

After that, Pineda (2-0) kept his team out of trouble.

"He was throwing very hard," Celestina said. "I think the speed that he has is unbeatable."

It was almost a complete collapse for a California team that many expected to dominate. Conejo Valley committed just two errors in five games, but had three errors by the end of the third inning of the title game.

California's coaches refused to come to the postgame news conference.

Curacao broke the game open in the third on a strange RBI double by Quincey van Blaricum. Cody Thomson slid to make the play in right field, but the ball bounced in front of him and over his body.

Charlton Martis scored easily, while Willie Rifeala and van Blaricum continued around the bases.

The runners appeared to be jammed when Rifeala held up at third and van Blaricum was caught halfway between second and third. But when Rifeala went home, the throw to the plate was off the mark, allowing Rifeala to score, making it 5-0.

In the consolation game, Lamar National Little League of Richmond, Texas, beat Linda Vista Little League of Guadalupe, Mexico, 5-0. Randal Grichuk's second hit of the game for Texas tied the record for hits in a series with 12.

Top-seeded Federer wins first match in U.S. Open

BY HAL BOCK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Australian Open and Wimbledon champion Roger Federer began his quest for a third Grand Slam title this season by defeating former French Open champion Albert Costa 7-5, 6-2, 6-4 in the first round of the U.S. Open on Monday.

Playing on an oppressively humid afternoon at the National Tennis Center, Federer came into the Open on a mission. He has never progressed beyond the round of 16 in four previous appearances in the season's final Grand Slam.

But now he is seeded No. 1, the pre-tournament favorite, and he played an efficient first-round match against Costa, who is more at home on clay than the hard courts of the Open.

Federer took 2 hours, 4 minutes to beat Costa, who had split four previous matches with the top seed.

"I lost the last two times I played him, once on clay, once on hard," Federer said. "He knows how to beat me. I started to figure out how to play him today, so I'm happy about that."

Blister serves as high as 129 mph, Federer delivered 11 aces to one for Costa and won easily.

Next for Federer is qualifier Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus, the 2003 world junior champion, who

defeated France's Gregory Carraz, ranked 156 places above him, and took a set against 14th-seeded Nicolas Pietrangeli in the Athens Olympics.

Longtime Open favorite Jennifer Capriati, seeded No. 8, dropped her first set to Denisa Chladkova but then recovered for a 2-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory. Playing tentatively at first, Capriati struggled early before taking Charge.

Mardy Fish, the silver medalist at Athens and seeded No. 26 in the Open, defeated David Ferrer 7-5, 6-3, 6-2 and Olivier Rochus ousted Wimbledon semifinalist Mario Ancic, seeded No. 27, 7-5, 6-2, 7-6 (8-6).

Earlier, third-seeded Carlos Moya got an early scare from wild-card entry Brian Baker before recovering to defeat the 19-year-old 6-7 (8-6), 6-4, 6-4, 6-2.

Equipped with the highest Grand Slam ranking of his career, Moya came into the Open off a strong season. He reached the quarterfinals at Cincinnati and in the Olympics, losing to the eventual champion both times. So Baker, making just his second appearance in this event, seemed to be an easy first-round draw. But the teenager got an early lead in the opening set and then won the tiebreaker, even after losing a lead.

After that, however, Moya took control. He ripped 24 aces and 66 winners in the match that stretched 3 hours, 7 minutes.

Second-seeded Amelie Mauresmo defeated American Marissa Irvin 6-4, 6-2 in the opening match of the tournament.

Mauresmo, the silver medalist in the Athens Olympics, waited out a 20-minute rain delay at the start and then won down Irvin methodically. She hit 18 winners and had seven aces, six in the second set.

"I don't feel the pressure of being No. 2 or No. 3 seed or whatever," she said. "My goal is still the same coming here as it was going to Wimbledon or the other Grand Slams. I want to go to the end and try to get that trophy."

"My serve was pretty good today. I felt very comfortable on that side of the game. The rest, I think I made two more errors and let her come back into that first set where I shouldn't have."

In other early matches, former Wimbledon champion Conchita Martinez lost to No. 31 seed Maria Vento-Kabchi 0-6, 6-2, 6-3; Ai Sugiyama, seeded No. 12, took advantage of 38 unforced errors and defeated Teyn Ashley 7-5, 6-2; Gisela Dulko defeated Tamarine Tanasugarn 7-6 (7-3), 6-3; and Julia Vakulenko defeated two-time NCAA champion Amber Liu 3-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Cyrl Saulnier outlasted Greg Rusedski 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (9-7) in a match that lasted 2 hours, 55 minutes. Alicia Molik, seeded No. 17, ousted Stephanie Cohen-Aloro 6-0, 6-2.

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COMET



Barry Bonds follows through on a fifth-inning home run Sunday night against the Atlanta Braves. It was Bonds' second homer of the game and 696th of his career. He finished 4-for-5 with six RBIs as the Giants beat Atlanta 9-5, tying San Diego and Chicago for the wild-card lead.

Sox claim interleague finale

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tim Lincecum bunted in the go-ahead run and Joe Borchard hit the longest homer in U.S. Cellular Field history Monday to help the Chicago White Sox defeat the Philadelphia Phillies 9-8.

The White Sox took a 7-6 lead with two runs in the sixth off Roberto Hernandez (2-5) to make a winner of Mark Buehrle (12-8). He allowed nine hits and six runs in six innings.

Jim Thome hit a two-out, three-run homer in the ninth off Shingo Takatsu, but the Chicago closer struck out Doug Glavine for his 14th save in 15 chances.

The game was a makeup of a June 10 rainout and the White Sox's victory clinched interleague bragging rights for the AL this season, 127-125.

Aaron Rowand hit a two-out RBI single off Hernandez to tie it and scored the go-ahead run when third baseman David Bell and Hernandez collided trying to field Perez's bunt single.

Rowand upped the lead to 9-6 in the eighth with his 20th homer, a two-run shot off Todd Jones.

AL Roundup

Borchard gave the White Sox a 3-2 lead in the second with a drive to right-center off Brett Myers that cleared the bleachers and landed in the middle of a concourse — an estimated 504 feet from the plate. The previous longest homer at the stadium, which opened in 1991 as the new Comiskey Park, was a 495-foot shot by Frank Thomas two years ago against the Twins.

In AL games Sunday:

Athletics 9, Devil Rays 6: Billy McMillon hit a three-run homer in the bottom of the ninth and the A's completed a three-game sweep of the Devil Rays to finish 7-0 on a homestand for the first time in 12 years.

Mark Mulder was in position to become the majors' first 18-game winner until Octavio Dotel (4-1) gave up consecutive homers to Aubrey Huff and Jose Cruz with two outs in the ninth, tying it 6-6.

Angels 4, Twins 2: Adam

It's never too late

B.Raves rally for two runs in ninth to beat Giants; S.F. falls out of three-way lead in wild-card race

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Andrew Jones capped a ninth-inning rally with a game-winning single as the Atlanta Braves rallied past the San Francisco Giants 7-6 on Monday.

J.D. Drew, who was 3-for-4 with a three-run homer and four RBIs, led off the inning with a single to right off Giants closer Dusty Hermanson. Julio Franco followed with another shot that rolled past right fielder Ricky Ledee for a game-tying triple.

After Hermanson walked Eli Marrero, Jones lined a 2-2 pitch into right field to drive in pinch-runner Mike Hampton with the winning run.

Hermanson (5-6) gave up two runs and three hits without recording an out for his second blown save in nine chances.

The Braves won three of four games in the series, improving their record against the NL West this month to 13-4.

The Giants, who beat the Braves 9-5 Sunday behind Barry Bonds' two mammoth home runs, fell a half-game back of Chicago and San Diego in the NL wild-card race.

Michael Tucker, who ended an 0-for-27 slump with a two-run homer in the sixth inning, had four RBIs for the Giants.

J.T. Snow gave the Giants a 6-4 lead in the seventh with a bases-loaded double. Tucker also tried to score on the play, but was thrown out at the plate after a run-down to end the inning.

The Braves closed to 6-5 in the home half. Drew led off with a sin-

NL Roundup

gle to center and scored on a sacrifice fly by Eli Marrero.

Felipe Alou did not start Bonds a day after he hit two of the longest home runs in Turner Field history Sunday night. Braves manager Bobby Cox followed suit, resting Chipper Jones, Marcus Giles and Johnny Estrada.

Bonds was used as a pinch-hitter in the top of the ninth Monday and grounded out to second against Roman Colon (1-0) to end the inning. Colon struck out Bonds Sunday night, the only blemish on a 4-for-5 effort by the San Francisco slugger.

Chipper Jones started the day with his wife for the birth of their third son, but was in the dugout by the sixth inning. He struck out as a pinch-hitter in the seventh inning.

The Braves jumped on Giants rookie Noah Lowry for three runs in the third inning. Rafael Furcal and Nick Green reached on singles with one out and Drew followed with his 29th homer.

The Braves took a 4-1 lead in the fifth inning when Andrew Jones singled to left to drive in Green.

Lowry gave up six hits and four runs with three walks in five innings.

Tucker cut the Braves' lead to 4-3 in the sixth with a two-run single, then tied it with a bases-loaded walk in the seventh.

With two outs, Kevin Grysinski

loaded the bases by giving up a single to Dustan Mohr and walking pinch-hitter Pedro Feliz and Ray Durham. Cox brought in left-hander Tom Martin, who walked Tucker to force in the game-tying run.

Tucker also drove in the Giants' first run in the fourth inning with an RBI groundout.

In Sunday's NL games:

Giants 9, Braves 5: Bonds hit two-run homers measuring 467 and 462 feet off Atlanta's Russ Ortiz (13-7), giving him 696 for his career.

Bonds added a two-run single in the sixth inning to help end Atlanta's season-best, six-game winning streak.

The first homer was the second-longest at Turner Field, which opened in 1997, bested only Sammy Sosa's 471-foot shot on Sept. 1, 2001. Bonds' second homer was the third-longest at Turner Field.

It was the fourth multihomer game of the season for Bonds and the 68th of his career, breaking a tie with Mark McGwire and placing him second only to Babe Ruth's 72. Bonds has four career three-homer games.

Marlins 8, Rockies 4: A.J. Burnett (5-6) struck out a team-record 14 in eight innings and Miguel Cabrera and Mike Lowell homered to help host Florida complete a three-game sweep and move within four games of the wild-card lead.

Shawn Estes (13-6) allowed eight runs in five innings for the Rockies, who have lost seven straight and 12 of 14.

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SPORTS



Broncos expect RB Anderson to miss significant time with groin injury, Page 39

Classic Greek drama



All photos AP except Mia Hamm, KRT

American gold medalists, from left, Mia Hamm, Andre Ward, Michael Phelps, Paul Hamm and Lisa Leslie. U.S. athletes captured 103 medals overall, 35 of them gold.

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MORGAN LOOSLI/Stars and Stripes

U.S. athletes found triumph, heartbreak in Athens

BY LARRY MCSHANE

The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece

Little things meant a lot in Athens: a tear from Mia Hamm's eye, or a smile across Jennie Finch's mouth, was as good as gold.

A pair of abandoned wrestling shoes, size 13, signaled goodbye for Rulon Gardner. A track baton, about a foot long, turned to kryptonite as the U.S. women's 400-meter relay team fumbled the last medal hopes of Sydney superwoman Marion Jones.

These snapshots make up the bigger picture in Athens: 17 days of emotion and excitement in the birthplace of the Games, 108 years after the first modern Olympiad in the same Mediterranean city.

Athletes followed the ancient footsteps of a doomed distance runner from Marathon, or collected medals in arenas long reserved for Olympic ghosts.

The Americans embraced the history and made a little themselves: They broke the 100-medal mark to eclipse their team goal. With 103 medals (35 gold, 39 silver, 29 bronze), they topped the Athens medal chart and enjoyed their largest haul since Barcelona's 108 in 1992.

But they left Greece with more than just a cache of precious metals.

"It's not about the medal," said soccer star Mia Hamm, a two-time gold medalist making her third Olympic trek. "It's about the journey."

For the U.S. team, the journey began once Michael Phelps plunged into the Olympic pool. When he finally towed off for the last time, the 19-year-old had a record-tying eight medals — six gold, two bronze in the first eight days of the Games.

The classy youth demonstrated grace beyond his years by surrendering his spot in the 400-meter medley relay final to his teammate and top rival, Ian Crocker.

Even Mark Spitz, whose record seven golds in a single games survived Phelps' onslaught, never turned that trick. Crocker won, too, as the U.S. swimmers took the Olympic pool, winning 12 golds and 28 medals.

Phelps led a bright new generation of U.S. Olympians: softball pitcher Finch and sprinter Justin Gatlin, soccer's Heather O'Reilly and hoopster Diana Taurasi, boxer Andre Ward and gymnast Carly Patterson — gold medal winners all.

The old guard, some ending long Olympic journeys, left their successors a legacy. Hamm, Joy Fawcett and Julie

Foudy retired after winning their golds in an overtime thriller. Dawn Staley, Lisa Leslie and Sheryl Swoopes won their third straight basketball gold; Staley won't be back, either.

Gardner, who settled for a bronze after nearly dying two years ago after a snowmobile accident, provided an unforgettable tableau: tears streaming down the face of the super heavyweight as he deposited his shoes in the middle of the mat and walked away from his sport for good.

Yes, there is crying in wrestling. Or there is if you're Rulon Gardner. But that's the way things went in Athens.

Not even Nostradamus, in his most outrageous quatrains, could have predicted such drama and delight. The Games were preceded by massive cost overruns, blown construction deadlines and dire predictions. This would be "Fear and Loathing in Athens," with the specter of terrorists supplying the first and the Americans targeted for the latter.

But it never came to pass, and the U.S. teams even turned the occasional, relatively mild anti-American outburst into motivation.

"The audience — there was a love-hate relationship," explained 100-meter gold medalist Gatlin, who also took home a silver and a bronze. "Every time I stepped out on the line, I had chills. It was electrifying."

SEE DRAMA ON PAGE 34

■ A look back in pictures at the most memorable Olympic moments Pages 30 and 31

Curacao takes first Little League championship Page 36

